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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you pay attention to where your food comes from?

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INSIDE

Paper Ballots

Come November, more Americans might cast their ballots on paper than in any other election in U.S. history.

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Campaign Ad

Paris Hilton didn't need cue cards for her presidential campaign ad.

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CUC warns of contaminated water supply. **PAGE 3**

'Outcome of federalization depends on implementation' **PAGE 4**

$83K in unclaimed back wages

Ex-Mariana Fashion workers must claim wages by Oct. 1

SAN FRANCISCO—Former garment workers at Mariana Fashions Inc. on Saipan have failed to claim $83,647 in back wages owed them following an agreement between the company and the U.S. Department of Labor.

The back wages are owed to 331 workers who were employed by the company between Dec. 1, 1997, and April 30, 1999, and who were not paid overtime wages for all hours

See $83K on Page 4

CONTACT INFO

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- e-mail at archila.anna@dol.gov,
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- fax at 415-625-7699.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The new prices of gasoline are displayed at the Shell service station on Middle Road yesterday.

Shell drops fuel prices

"The market cost of Shell's fuel products has significantly reduced. Shell wishes to pass these savings on to our customers."

— Eloy Lizama, president of Shell Marianas

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

For the second time in less than two weeks, gas prices have dropped at service stations as the global cost of crude oil fell yet again this week

See SHELL on Page 4

SHELL PRICES

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PEACE CEREMONY MATTHEW BRANCH

Students take part in the 6th Annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony, honoring the 63rd anniversary of the *Enola Gay* aircraft taking off from Tinian. ***See story on Page 5.***

NMI tourism officials to meet House delegation in Guam

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Three local tourism officials are bound for Guam to meet a delegation of congressional staffers today on key issues related to the forthcoming federal immigration rules that will regulate foreign travelers in the CNMI.

At least nine congressional staff members are now in Guam, a visit linked to legislation signed by President Bush earlier this year establishing federal authority over the local immigration and foreign labor system. The delegation—composed of staff from several committees and the office of Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU)—is slated to arrive on Saipan Monday to meet with the local Chamber of Commerce and Gov. Benigno Fitial.

See NMI on Page 4

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Local

Port service rates could soon change

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The cost of services at the CNMI's ports could change in the near future after the Commonwealth Ports Authority completes a newly begun rate study, acting CPA director Lee Cabrera said in an interview Thursday.

CPA has recently contracted with BST Associates to conduct the study, which is required under the terms of the agency's bond indenture. The study could influence prices for port entry fees, moving cargo on local wharfs and docking ships, Cabrera said, yet whether those costs will rise or fall remains to be seen.

"CPA has been rather proactive in getting this kicked off so we can hopefully get it done before the end of the fiscal year," Cabrera said, adding the study could be finished as early as the end of September.

In addition to beginning the study, CPA is nearing an agreement with Freedom Air on the leasing of a hangar at the airport that the company plans to use for maintenance and cargo storage.

Freedom Air, in a July 30 letter to CPA, says it plans for the hangar to serve as the site for the "mid-life inspection" of a 30-seat aircraft. The inspection—a requirement for older airplanes—involves disassembling the aircraft completely to evaluate its parts, according to the letter. The job will require six to eight months and up to 20 staff members.

Freedom Air also notes in the letter that the hangar is in need of extensive repairs and consequently the company is asking for a reduced $750 per month rental agreement for the first five years "to defray our repair cost." The company plans to lease the hangar for 15 years.

Meanwhile, Cabrera said CPA is poised to meet with officials from the Commonwealth Development Authority soon to negotiate the terms of repaying a $6.8 million debt it owes, the remaining balance on a $10 million loan CDA granted for developments at local ports in 1998.

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CUC warns of contaminated water supply

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. issued a drinking water warning yesterday, announcing that portions of the island are receiving drinking water contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria.

Water delivered to areas between Msgr. Guerrero Road, Msgr. Martinez Road and Dahon Drive was found contaminated Aug. 5, 2008, and confirmed so by repeat sampling the following day.

E. coli are dangerous bacteria that will sicken consumers and are particularly harmful to infants, small children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.

The positive test results for the bacteria indicate the presence of human or animal waste in the water.

Utilities treatment operators recently discovered a broken chlorinator supply hose connecting the gas chlorinator to the distribution line. The break disrupted the treatment process, leaving the area's water inadequately treated with chlorine.

CUC currently advises all consumers residing in affected areas to boil all non-bottled water. The boiling process will kill all dangerous bacteria present in the contaminated water. Only boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, ice making, teeth brushing, dish washing and food preparation.

CUC also suggested the use of chlorine bleach to disinfect contaminated water. Two drops of bleach should be used to disinfect one quart of clear water. Twice as much should be used to disinfect one quart of cloudy water.

The damaged hose was replaced yesterday morning and the affected lines were flushed until adequate chlorine treatment was detected throughout the distribution area. Additional samples were also collected yesterday, the results of which should be available by noon today.

Notice will be given when residents of the affected areas no longer need to boil non-bottled water. ***(Caroline Lochabay)***

Admin asks Legislature to pass funded laws

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has urged the Legislature to pass funded laws to avoid issues of unfunded liability and major government agency deficits.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said if the Legislature wishes to change policy, lawmakers must ensure that their actions do not result in the government accruing unfunded liabilities with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. or other government agencies.

Reyes explained Fitial's position to the *Saipan Tribune* when asked about the House of Representatives' approval of legislation exempting low-income utility customers from the $60 reconnection fee.

By a vote of 14-1, the House recently passed a bill designed to benefit residential CUC customers who currently receive or qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Only Rep. Tina Sablan opposed the bill. She said she voted against the legislation "primarily because we did not know exactly what the cost impact would be for the proposed program, and it seemed irresponsible to me to create a subsidy program without having at least a vague idea about its cost or how we would pay for it."

Reyes noted that the problem of the passage of bills that grant compensation without the simultaneous allocation of funding to replenish the hole left by the subsidy has been encountered numerous times.

Reyes cited the situation of the CNMI Retirement Fund as an example of the problem. "That has resulted in major unfunded liability and major deficits," he said.

Reyes said the politically popular bills favored by the Legislature don't "make sense" from a strict financial standpoint.

"I think the governor would be in favor [of the legislation] if you can show a funding source," he said. "It is up to the Legislature to show the funding source because somebody has to pay for the service."

Reyes pointed out that connecting disconnected utility services costs money.

"The question is, what is the cost? And if the consumers are not going to bear it, who's going to bear it for them?" he asked.

The source for bearing the costs, according to Reyes, should be identified because the lack of a source results in notable financial problems.

Reyes said the administration agrees with Rep. Sablan's position on this matter.

"We disagreed with her on other issues, but we try to work with her as best as we can, along with all the legislators. There are differences in policy but ultimately we try to arrive at the most economically sensible policy, especially in this trying economic time," he added.

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‘Outcome of federalization depends on implementation’

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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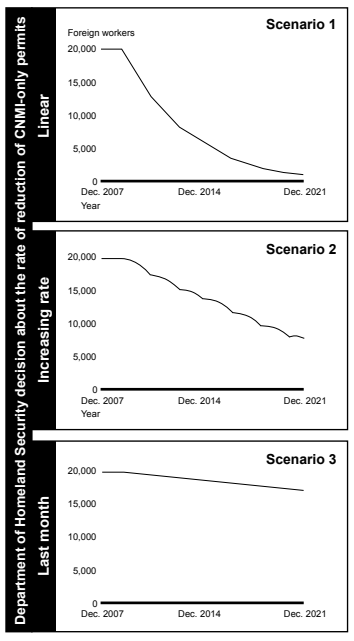
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Government Accountability Office’s new report on the pending federal takeover of local immigration rules has sparked controversy linked to its analysis of how “federalization” will impact the local gross domestic product, with Gov, Benigno Fitial and his administration blasting its findings as damaging to the CNMI. Yet GAO has cautioned findings in the report cited by the administration stem from only one scenario among many.

At issue is a section of the report and an accompanying graph that analyzes how reductions in the CNMI’s foreign workforce could affect its economic output. Assuming annual decreases in the number of permits issued to foreign workers and extensions of the so-called “transition period,” this section presents three possible outcomes with a range of consequences for the GDP.



Officials in the Fitial administration have said that the findings seen in this section of the report suggest, based on their interpretation of the data, that federalization would slash the local GDP roughly in half within the next several year, devastating the economy.

However, GAO has said the report cannot be viewed as predictive due to a host of factors outside its scope. Instead, the economic outcome of federalization will depend on how it is implemented, GAO contends.

“Because of foreign workers’ prominence in the CNMI labor market, any substantial and rapid reduction in the numbers of CNMI-only permits for foreign workers would have a negative effect on the size of the CNMI economy,” the report says. “However, federal agencies may make more modest reductions in CNMI-only permits, resulting in minimal effects on the economy.”

The first scenario GAO’s report presents shows that a sharp drop in local permits issued to foreign workers, falling from 20,000 to 1,000 by 2021 would lower the CNMI’s GDP to a range of about 21 to 73 percent of its current value.

Under the second scenario, a staggered decline in foreign workers, dropping from 20,000 to 8,000 in the same timeframe, would lower the CNMI’s GDP to a range of about 64 to 85 percent of its current value by 2021.

And in the last scenario, a much smaller decline in the alien workforce, down from 20,000 to about 17,000 within the same period would lower the CNMI’s GDP to a range of 98 to 92 percent of its current value by 2021.

Examining the range of potential GDP losses, the local government in a response to the report notes that federalization’s economic impact spans from roughly a 25 percent reduction to up to a 75 percent reduction “with the middle 50 percent of the results showing a 50-60 percent reduction in GDP,” data that administration officials have said could shake investor confidence in the local economy.

GAO contends this is an inaccurate interpretation, yet recognizes in a response to the government’s comments that the report finds that reductions in workers could impact the local GDP.

“We found that varying rates of reduction in CNMI- only permits for foreign workers resulting from the agencies’ decisions could decrease CNMI GDP to a range of about 98 percent (minimal impact) to 21 percent (substantial impact) of current levels, holding other factors constant. The 50 percent reduction in GDP noted by the CNMI government represents only one possible outcome in this range.”

Man with disability sues construction company, GM

By Kristi Eaton
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man afflicted with several disabilities has sued a Saipan construction company, its general manager and its parent corporation for allegedly not renewing his contract after his condition came to light in a series of medical examinations.

Honorio G. Cambronero sued RJCL Corp., which owns RNV Construction, and Ruel R. Villacrusis, the general manager of RNV Construction.

Cambronero, through counsel, sued the defendants for violation of Title I under the Americans with Disabilities Act in U.S. District Court. The plaintiff was an electrician for the construction company.

Cambronero is asking the court to order the defendants to pay damages, attorney’s fees costs of medical care, and lost earnings. He also wants the court to issue an injunction preventing them from further discrimination based on disabilities.

According to the complaint, Cambronero suffers from chronic stable angina pectoris, ischemic heart disease, hypertension stage II, and impaired fasting glucose.

Sometime during August 2006, Cambronero began to feel chest pains and numbness in his left arm and sought treatment at Pacific Medical Center. He received initial treatment and was given medication, but Dr. Gabriel de Guzman recommended Cambronero seek further treatment in the Philippines, according to the complaint.

Cambronero reportedly informed Villacrusis of his need to travel to the Philippines.

“Villacrusis agreed to allow [Cambronero] to go to the Philippines for medical treatment and assured [him] that the company will shoulder all of [his] medical expenses,” the complaint stated.

Cambronero left for the Philippines on Oct. 4, 2006, with a roundtrip airline ticket he had won in a company Christmas raffle, and $500 as initial medical allowance given him by Villacrusis.

While there, Cambronero was diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome and new onset angina. Cardiologist Dr. Erwin D. Dizon, of the Philippine Heart Center, recommended coronary angiography and possible trans-coronary catheter therapy—treatments costing approximately $11,000, according to the complaint.

Cambronero instructed Dizon he would need to obtain permission from his employer. The plaintiff contacted Villacrusis by telephone. Villacrusis reportedly told Cambronero to “check other hospitals for a cheaper medical treatment.”

Cambronero then visited Philippine General Hospital where he was diagnosed by several doctors with chronic stable angina pectoris, ischemic heart disease, hypertension stage II, and impaired fasting glucose. Doctors recommended angioplasty or bypass surgery, costing approximately $10,000, according to the complaint.

After contacting Villacrusis, Cambronero was reportedly instructed to wait for the “go-signal” and promised the plaintiff he would visit him in the Philippines sometime in December 2006, both of which never happened, the complaint stated.

Cambronero then sough assistance with the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs. The department contacted the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan who contacted Villacrusis. Villacrusis reportedly told the consular officials he would pay for the medical expenses. Cambronero waited for Villacrusis to contact him, as the Department of Foreign Affairs had instructed, but Villacrusis never contacted him, the complaint states.

Without Villacrusis’s consent, the plaintiff was not able to receive the treatment and returned to Saipan on Feb. 3, 2007.

According to the complaint, on or about March 22, 2007, Villacrusis informed Cambronero his employment contract would not be renewed upon its expiration on April 24, 2007, because of his heart condition.

Cambronero sought legal counsel who began communication with Villacrusis. After plaintiff’s lawyers filed two letters, Villacrusis agreed to negotiations in April 2007. According to the complaint, Villacrusis was telling other employees that the matter was closed as of June 2007.

On June 20, 2007, the plaintiff’s legal counsel wrote another letter to Villacrusis expressing hope that the matter was settled and he would meet Cambronero’s requests. In the letter, counsel asked Villacrusis to release Cambronero’s final paycheck, but asked the defendant not to force Cambronero to sign a clearance releasing the defendants from all claims because there had been no formal agreement executed by all parties.

The complaint states that in November 2007, Villacrusis agreed to meet with Cambronero’s lawyers “presumably to finalize a settlement agreement.”

“On the appointed day, Mr. Villacrusis requested to reschedule for the following week or a couple of days later,” the complaint states.

On Nov. 7, 2007, the counsel’s secretary contacted Villacrusis, reminding him of the rescheduled appointment.

“She was then told that there was ‘no need’ for Villacrusis to meet with plaintiff’s counsel because ‘we already got a lawyer,’” the complaint states.

On or about Feb. 8, 2008, Cambronero’s counsel received a letter from defendant’s counsel rejecting the settlement categorically, “’RNV Construction will not agree to pay any further medical expenses for Mr. Honorio Cambronero.’”

According to the complaint, Cambronero believes RNV Construction paid the medical expenses for other workers who got sick. Cambronero believes he was terminated in violation of public policy due to his medical expenses.

NMI

From Page 1

Lynn Knight, president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands; Perry Tenorio, director of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and Marian Aldan-Pierce, the MVA board’s vice chairwoman, intend to meet with the delegation today. Members of the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force in Guam invited them to attend the meeting.

In interviews Thursday, Tenorio and Knight said a key issue in the Guam conference will be the joint Guam-CNMI visa waiver program that the new law creates, which will let travelers from certain nations travel within the islands without the requirement of a federal visa. Tourism officials have previously said this program is critical to the CNMI because it could safeguard the tourism industry and foreign investors from strict federal immigration rules.

“The importance is to allow us to continue to welcome Chinese and Russian visitors to the Marianas Islands,” Tenorio said, adding that the local task force members hope to enlist the help of the congressional staffers in advocating for the inclusion of those tourists in the program.

“As staff for members of Congress, hopefully they can argue the importance of these two markets to the CNMI and Guam,” he said.

In a statement last month, CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio said the delegation aims to ensure that the intent of the newly signed law is being met and to focus on job training for local workers.

SHELL

From Page 1

after reaching record highs earlier this summer.

In a statement, Eloy Lizama, president of Shell Marianas, disclosed that prices on all Shell gasoline brands lowered by 20 cents as of 2 pm Thursday.

“Since our last price movement on July 31 the market cost of Shell’s fuel products has significantly reduced,” Lizama said. “Shell wishes to immediately pass these savings on to our customers.”

Some Mobil stations have also seen a corresponding price drop.

The price decline follows a decrease in crude oil prices, which fell 59 cents Wednesday to $118.58 dollars per barrel according to the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil futures also dipped the same day to $117.11 per barrel, their lowest price since May and a 20 percent decline from the $147.27 per barrel record high reached last month.

Shell’s recent price changes on Saipan bring the cost of regular gasoline to $4.68 per gallon for self-service and $4.81 for full service. Shell’s self service price for its V-power brand gasoline fell to $4.85 per gallon, while full service is $4.97. Diesel prices also dropped to $5.60 per gallon.

Meanwhile, the CNMI’s gas prices are still far higher than those seen in the continental United States, where the national average price of unleaded gasoline now stands at $3.86 per gallon, according to AAA, down 9 cents from earlier this week. The national average price for unleaded gasoline on the same day one year ago, AAA notes, was $2.83.

$83K

From Page 1

worked in accordance with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

“We would like these back wages delivered to the workers who earned them,” said George Friday Jr., regional administrator of the Labor Department’s Wage and Hour Division in San Francisco.

Friday’s office has had many inquiries from former workers at another garment manufacturer, Marianas Garment Manufacturing, following a similar announcement of available back wage payments by the department in April of this year.

“We would also like to be successful in delivering back wages to the former Mariana Fashion Workers,” he said.

Many of the workers left Saipan, often returning to China, before the agreement with Mariana Fashions was signed in October 2003. The Wage and Hour Division did not have addresses or a means to contact many of the former employees once they left Saipan. Any wages not claimed by Oct. 1, 2008, will be transferred to the U.S. Treasury and cannot be recovered.

Former workers who believe that they may be entitled to back wages for work performed during the period covered should contact Anna Archila, back wage clerk, via e-mail at archila.anna@dol.gov, by phone at 415-625-7697 or by fax at 415-625-7699.

The FLSA requires that covered employees receive overtime at one and one-half times their regular rates of pay for hours worked beyond 40 per week. Employers must also maintain accurate time and payroll records.

Information about the FLSA is available on the Wage and Hour Division’s home page at www.wagehour.dol.gov, by calling the division toll-free at 866-487-9243 (4US-WAGE) or by calling the division’s office in Saipan at 670-233-0740. ***(Labor)***

Shower fails to dampen Tinian peace ceremony

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite a sudden downpour during the morning portion of Wednesday's ceremony, the 6th annual Tinian Hiroshima Nasaki Peace Ceremony went well, an event organizer said.

The ceremony honored the 63rd anniversary of the *Enola Gay* taking off from Tinian. The aircraft carried "Little Boy," the atomic bomb used in the attack on Hiroshima.

Approximately 60 people took part in the morning activities, comprised mostly of students from Tinian High School and Koryo High School, and 50 in the evening.

During the Sounding of the Sirens at 9am and moment of silence, the downpour started, event organizer James Mendiola said.

"Actually, it made for a poignant moment," he said. "It maybe underscored the sadness of the event."

The organizers decided to move the event from the Children's Peace Monument to the Kammer Beach main pavilion before the ceremony due to the weather forecast for rain, he said.

"It actually worked out very well," Mendiola added.

Erica Evangelisa served as the master of ceremony for the morning portion and evening vigil. She conducted the ceremony in English and Japanese to benefit the visiting students and teachers from Japan.

A one-minute moment of silence was observed at 9:15am while sirens from the Tinians' Department of Public Safety vehicles sounded. A multi-faith prayer followed the moment of silence. Sister Luz from the Catholic Church, Vili A. Villan of the Seventh-Day Adventist, and Pastor Buddy Cunanan of Jesus is Lord conducted the prayers.

A less formal Candlelight Peace Vigil started in the evening. Participants helped light nearly 300 candles decorating the main pavilion.

"It made for a very intimate moment," Mendiola said.

The 13 students from Hiroshima Koryo High School performed a Japanese song, *Peace Loving People*, while the Tinian Children's Choir performed John Lennon's *Imagine*. Tinian High School student Alisha Shrestha recited an original poem, *Peace*, written for the ceremony.

Local recording artists Anthony Aguon and Nikita Mendiola closed the ceremony by performing U2's *One* and Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On.*

"It wowed everyone. It actually wrapped things up quite nicely," Mendiola said.

After the event, vigil participants enjoyed refreshments provided by community members.

"I think it was a nice ceremony this year. Although it was small, I think the candles and music were something special, and I hope our guests from Hiroshima enjoyed the event." said Ann Marie Hocog, one of the organizers of the event. "And we would especially like to thank the many people and businesses that had donated so much to this year's events; without their help none of this would have been possible."

CHECKING OUT THE MUSEUM
Tourists spend time inside the World War II Museum of the American Memorial Park in Garapan.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Vendors on Saipan and Tinian for the purpose of providing WIC-approved food items to WIC participants. All interested vendors may pick up an application at the WIC main office located at Upper Navy Hill, building number N-25, starting July 28, 2008 through August 16, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.). Alternatively, applications may also be downloaded online by visiting the CNMI WIC website at **www.cnmiwic.org**.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:30 p.m., August 16, 2008.

The Vendor selection criteria are attached to the applications and can also be viewed online at **www.cnmiwic.org**. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa, at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org, or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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*** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will be accepted • some conditions apply

House panel meets with Fund, DoF on pensions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives' special committee is seeking consultation with the Retirement Fund and the Department of Finance to discuss some concerns on a bill that would allow the Fund to pay new retirees less than their full pension.

The special committee headed by Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero reached a decision on Wednesday to hold a meeting with the Retirement Fund and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos. The meeting was set for today, Friday, at 9am, at the Legislature.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said the purpose of the meeting is to answer some questions regarding the bill that the members are concerned about.

"There are people who are waiting to retire. If that bill is passed into law, depending on how much employer contribution was not remitted to the Retirement Fund, the pensioner's pension would be reduced correspondingly," he said.

Senate Bill 16-36 proposes to amend Public Law 15-61, which specifically prohibits the Retirement Fund from applying the proportionate pension scheme.

The bill was referred to the House, which deliberated on the floor but did not reach a consensus to either pass, kill, or amend it.

This prompted Speaker Arnold Palacios to create the special committee headed by Deleon Guerrero and members Reps. Oscar Babauta, Justo Quitugua, Heinz Hofschneider, and Ralph Anthony Torres.

Palacios gave the special committee 15 days to report back to the House.

The special committee has until next week to meet with the affected agencies. After that, the committee is expected to come out with a recommendation that can be provided to House members.

Deleon Guerrero said that under the bill an employee can be allowed to retire but he or she will get a reduced pension until such time that the government pays the full retirement contribution. Only then will he or she get a full pension.

Deleon Guerrero said that under the current situation—with the Fund not entertaining any applications for retirement—he supports the bill.

However, he wants to make sure that the government employee who wants to retire is not going to be affected negatively.

"If we can improve that bill then that's when I would support it," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the Retirement Fund chairman right now does not support the current version of the bill because when the House amended it, lawmakers took out the provision requiring the central government to pay back within six months or two years what it owes the retiree.

"They want a timeline. And we were concerned that if that timeline is in there and the government doesn't remit back during that time period, then the pensioners are the ones got penalized for it," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said when they removed that timeline, the Retirement Fund is not happy and they did not support the bill.

"So that's partly why we're going to meet with them is to see if we can come up with something that they can feel comfortable with and at the same time we want to make sure that the potential pensioners are protected, that they will not be penalized," he added.

The government has stopped remitting employer contributions to the Fund since March 2006. The government reportedly owes the pension program $132 million in employer contributions, excluding penalties and interest.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 13 (Lower Navy Hill), 26 (As Lito), and 27 (San Antonio).

A public hearing will be held:
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 **Time:** 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

As rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Power Plant1, load shedding will continue to be required. However, to conform to the daily power demand, the schedule will be expanded to include the entire feeder (1st & 2nd partial) in each of the respective timeslots other than Feeder 1. Therefore, the load shedding schedule for Aug. 9 through Aug. 15, 2008 will be as follows.

8am -10am Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Beach Road Garapan at Fishing Base Kristo Rai south to San Jose Intersection

10am - 12pm Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Botanical Garden, Portions of Fina Sisu, Lower Dandan, Upper Dandan, Homestead, Isley Field, Kannat Tabla

Feeder-3: Laterals
Taro Sue to portions of Upper China Town, Upper Gualo Rai

12pm -2pm Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

2pm - 4pm Feeder-1: Second partial
99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan (DFS and BOG), Upper and Navy Hill Lower Chinatown, Kristo Rai Church

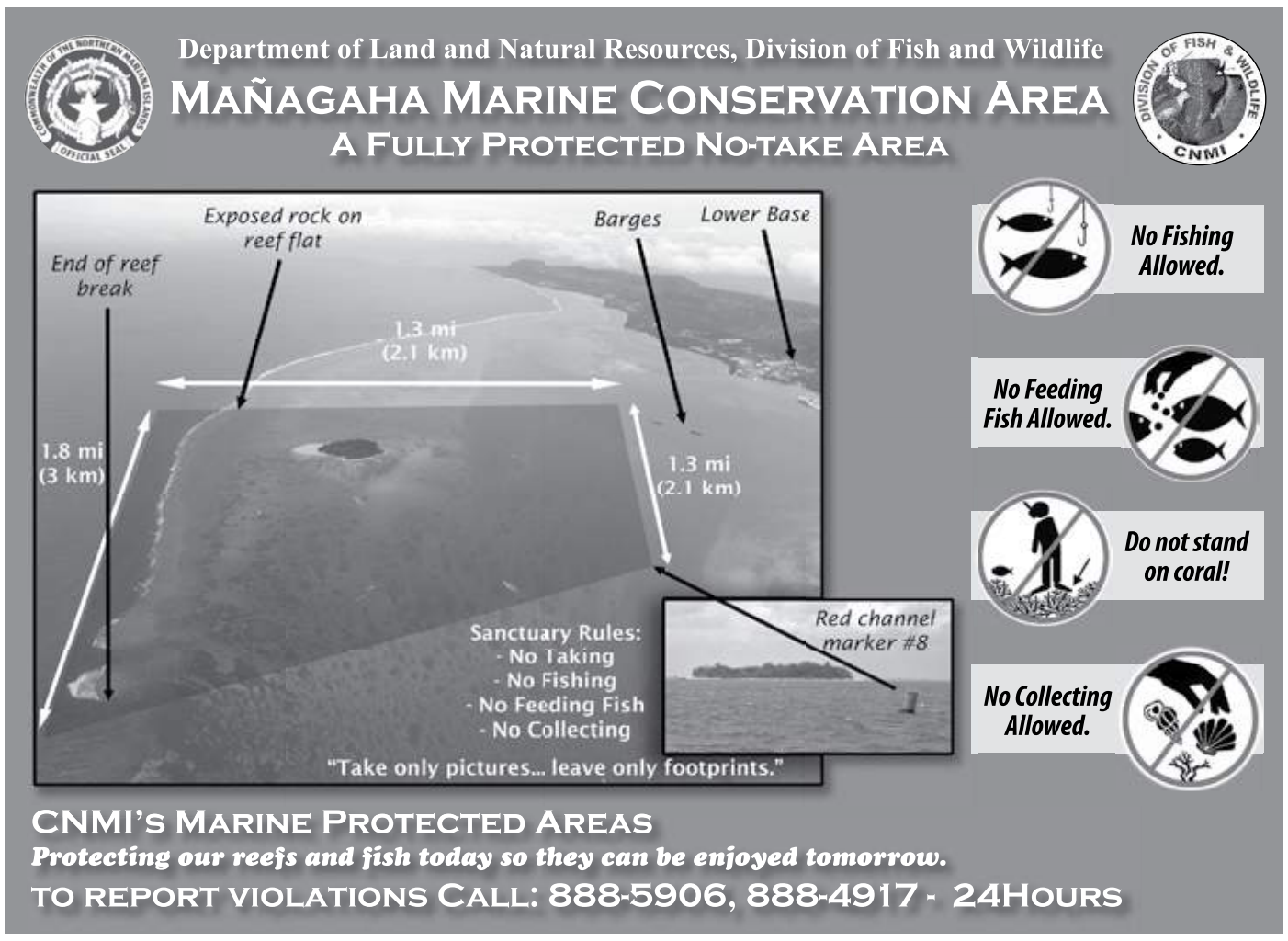
4pm - 6pm Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

6pm - 8pm Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Portions of Fina Sisu, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao

8pm - 10pm Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago to Botanical Garden

Water and wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages. CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule but it may be modified in future public notices. The schedule may also be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary.

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.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Barges
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Sanctuary Rules:
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- No Fishing
- No Feeding Fish
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"Take only pictures... leave only footprints."
No Fishing Allowed.
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Filipino man reported missing

A 47-year-old man has been reported missing, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Alex Matubis, a drafter and cartographer, arrived on Saipan Monday, July 28, after conducting work on Tinian. According to investigators, a witness last saw him at 10:30am the same day when he was dropped off at his residence in Garapan.

Matubis was reported missing to DPS Thursday, July 30.

Matubis is described as Filipino. Anyone with information is asked call the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 664-9024/9045. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

Matubis

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Stanley scores Mobil for its pre-conditions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley T. Torres has slammed Mobil Oil for asking an additional $2.5 million in secured credit limit from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. plus an offset in gross receipts tax obligations in case of a default—in exchange for considering CUC's request to let it pay for fuel on a 60-day basis instead of the current 45 days.

"I'm disappointed with Mobil that maybe they are asking too much from us while they are enjoying the business," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The lawmaker said Mobil Oil wants another five-year guaranteed business in the CNMI.

"So I feel like we're being held hostage by Mobil in their response [to CUC's request]. I just hope that when the time comes to come up with a new contract, maybe a different company can provide us a better price," Torres said.

In a July 9, 2008, letter to Mobil Oil Marianas Inc., CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna asked it to give the utility agency a 60-day credit terms instead of 45 days.

In Mobil's July 23 response to Muna, commercial manager Brian Bamba said the company recognizes CUC's attempts to improve its current course and therefore, has considered the request.

Bamba said the 60-day credit terms should be on a fully secured basis, in addition to CUC's line credit ($7.5 million) with the Bank of Guam.

"We will not charge CUC for the additional financing costs of over $60,000 for providing this extended credit facility," Bamba said.

The manager said Mobil is willing to consider an additional $2.5 million in credit line to CUC "on the premise that the CNMI government provides Mobil with an irrevocable right to offset Mobil's gross receipts tax, should CUC default on its fuel obligations to Mobil."

Last July 30, Muna asked Mobil to reconsider CUC's request. He told Bamba that the 60-day purchase terms conditional to being fully secured is not possible for CUC.

On the tax obligations issue, Muna said pledging an irrevocable right to offset Mobil's gross receipts tax obligations is beyond CUC's authority to convey.

Torres agreed with Muna that the 60-day term will allow CUC more time to receive more collections because the 45-day is too short.

"Somehow Mobil doesn't want to give in unless CUC put another $2.5 million in the bank…that's my interpreta-

See STANLEY on Page 8

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K3 Monthly
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Semi-Fulltime $255 $150
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saipansdaschool@gmail.com Business hours: 7:15 am - 4:30 pm (mon-thur) 7:15 am - 1:00 pm (fri)

Another Tinian casino in the works

Plans to construct a multi-million dollar casino on Tinian emerged Thursday after the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission disclosed that a corporation has submitted a license application for the project.

The Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp., the commission said in a statement, has submitted the license application and all the required fees. The commission will now conduct a suitability assessment on the company's shareholders and other details.

The casino's principal shareholders are its chairman and president Myung In Hyun and Kwi Dong Woo, the company's Saipan chairman. The project calls for building a $200 million resort, which will include a 1,000-room hotel, a casino, a water park, and a golf course.

The application marks the latest of several new tourism projects taking shape on Tinian. Already, the island has the Tinian Dynasty Hotel Casino and early construction has begun on the Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums, a project by the Bridge Investment Group. Architects have also recently visited the island to assess the site of a third major hotel project. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

STANLEY

From Page 7

tion," Torres said.

CUC has $7.5 million in the bank as secured credit limit. Part of the contract with CUC is that Mobil will not provide CUC fuel without that amount in the bank.

"But that's not enough for Mobil. They want another $2.5 million in order for CUC to stretch the term to 60 days," Torres said.

He suspects that Mobil wants another five-year contract.

On the tax issue, Torres said CUC cannot do that without the Legislature's consent.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2005 Mazda 3i

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam credit Department at telephone number (670) 236-2700 extension 3203, 3204, 3205 and 3206. Bids will be closed on

Friday, August 8, 2008
at **6:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

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Website: www.cnmiddcouncil.org

CNMI COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
3rd 2008 Quarterly Council Board of Directors Meeting

When : August 16, 2008
Where : Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Hotel
Time : 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA

1. **Preliminaries:**
   a. Call to order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Establish Quorum
   d. Adoption of Minutes – Last Council Meeting
   e. Adoption of Agenda
   f. Introduction of Guests
2. **Old business**
   a. Election of Council Vice Chairman
   b. Election of Council Secretary
3. **New business**
   a. Adoption of FY 2009 Budget
      - DD State Basic Grant
      - Family Support 360 Grant
      - AT Act Program Grant
      - Trankilu Alternative Financing Program
4. **Reports**
   a. Executive Director
   b. State Plan Committee
   c. Fiscal Committee
   d. Council Membership Committee
5. **Next Council Meeting**
6. **Adjournment**

Approved by: /s/ John D. Arriola, Council Chairperson

Department of Public Safety
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Public Safety's Armory Unit will be clearing its inventory of firearms with expired registrations and weapons, slated for destruction.

Registered owners of the firearms who have surrendered their weapons to DPS may contact the Firearms and Records Section to declare their weapons with the proper registration forms and proof of ownership documents.

All interested parties should have the proper documentation completed and ready prior to contacting the Firearms and Records Section 664-9072/3 or the Armory Unit at 664-9031.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Rota International Airport Runway Phase II project, Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);

3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;

4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and

5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., August 15, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:
Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/**Lee C. Cabrera**
Acting Executive Director
July 16, 2008

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 08, 2000

Man gunned down by 2 in ski masks
Two unidentified men, armed with short firearms, gunned down a 33-year-old Hong Kong Chinese and injured his woman companion during a dawn attack yesterday at a restaurant in Chalan Piao, according to police. The victim, whose name was withheld by the Department of Public Safety, sustained multiple gunshot wounds after the suspects in ski mask opened fired at him while eating at BBQ Restaurant around 4:00 a.m.

Hopwood enforces stringent dress code
The new administration of Hopwood Junior High School has vowed to enforce proper dress code among its students ruling out skimpy, daring tank tops and excessively loose pants or skirts both for female and male students. Returning Hopwood Principal David Borja yesterday said the fresh move has been enforced to create a school spirit more conducive for learning.

Internal Affairs to probe police brutality allegations
The Department of Public Safety will investigate allegations contained in the civil suit lodged by the Cabrera family from San Antonio against a dozen police officers whom they accused of illegal arrests and manhandling. The Internal Affairs and the Criminal Investigation Bureau will be involved in the probe, according to DPS spokesperson Rose Ada. "The investigation that will take place is not going to be biased. Whatever allegations that were made against any of our officers including those that have been named in that lawsuit, there is going to be an investigation done," she told reporters yesterday.

August 08, 2001

109 running for public office
Twenty-seven candidates will run without party affiliation while none of the four political parties were able to submit a complete slate for the November election. The Commission on Election yesterday disclosed it received the petitions for candidacy of 109 individuals seeking government posts, including a position in the local council and the Board of Education.

Scramble on to fix payroll problem at the Legislature
Lawmakers and executive branch officials are now scrambling to resolve the standoff between the Legislature and the Department of Finance over the retirement contributions of legislative employees, in an effort to avoid payless paydays at the Legislature. According to acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack, he has been sitting down in a series of meetings with leaders of the Legislature and the Office of Budget and Management since last week to find ways of resolving the retirement contribution deficit of legislative employees.

The story behind the fuss
Exactly a month ago, this paper came out with a story, saying that the joke going around the Legislature these days is that there may not be a Legislature tomorrow. That sobering scenario, however, is staring the Legislature in the face these days, as finance and legislative officials frantically try to hammer out a deal that would provide the legislators with enough funds to keep their operations going until September 30-the end of the fiscal year.

August 08, 2002

Burglars target Saipan schools
In a span of three weeks, six schools have fallen prey to burglaries, leaving the affected campuses practically scant of their much-needed instructional gadgets such as computers, cassette players, tapes, digital cameras, televisions sets and more. Most recently, Koblerville, Dandan and William S. Reyes elementary schools were burglarized by unknown suspects.

Babauta OKs tax breaks for Tinian Dynasty
The Babauta administration came to the rescue of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino yesterday, with the signing of the Qualifying Certificate that grants the hotel firm generous tax breaks of up to $14 million for 10 years. Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed the Qualifying Certificate agreement yesterday afternoon in the presence of Tinian lawmakers, Tinian Dynasty managing director Alfred Yu, and hotel manager Tom Liu.

Rota declared disaster area
President Bush yesterday declared Rota a disaster area, over a month after typhoon Chata'an struck the island and caused severe destruction. This was disclosed by Josie Pritchard, a public information officer of the Federal Emergeny Management Agency who was temporarily stationed on Guam to participate in disaster relief operations.

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Suave Shampoo or Conditioner 15oz.
2 FOR
$3.00

Best Buys!

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$1.50

Colorsilk Hair Color
$5.49

Toastmaster Twin Sandwich Maker
$17.99

Proctor Silex 2 Slice Toaster
$12.99

School Pencil Eraser
59¢

Elmers Glue All 4oz.
$1.25

Mead Pencil No. 2
10 for 99¢

Portfolio 2 Pack
3 for $1.00

Notebook 70 ct.
2 for $1.50

Bick Stick Pen 10's
$1.79

DDC Crayons 64's
$1.09

Filler Paper 200 ct.
$1.39

Mead Notebook 70 ct.
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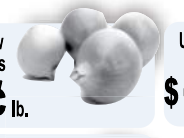

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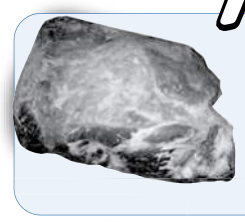
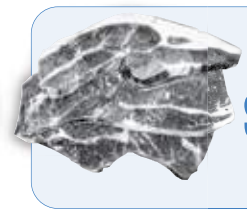
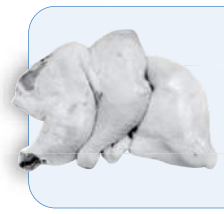


New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99 /lb.

New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99



New Zealand Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.



Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$19.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
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New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$5.99 /ea.

Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb.
$1.79 /ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99 /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.50 /cs.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
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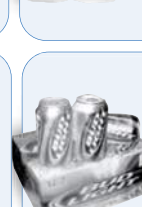
Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.79 /ea.

Zee Napkins 120 ct.
$2.09 /ea.

So Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.39 /ea.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Energy boost

Barack Obama celebrated his 47th birthday Monday by making a big wish: Within a decade, he wants the United States to be so energy efficient and so rife with new clean-energy technologies that it would no longer need to import oil from the Middle East and Venezuela. If that goal seems almost absurdly ambitious, at least the Democratic presidential candidate doesn't shirk from saying so. He called breaking our oil addiction among the greatest challenges of this generation, an effort akin to winning World War II or putting a man on the moon.

Unfortunately, there is a direct correlation between the prominence of energy as a campaign issue and the price of gasoline. If history is any guide, the zeal of both Obama and Republican contender John McCain for reducing our reliance on foreign oil will vanish when or if pump prices drop significantly. Still, it's refreshing to hear a candidate put this country's energy challenges into proper perspective, give them the high priority they have long lacked and tell Americans the truth about what it will take to overcome them.

This isn't to say that Obama has all the answers. Some of his proposals, in fact, would be counterproductive. He favors recovering more oil from domestic shale deposits, a spectacularly polluting process. He also wants to send working families a $1,000 "energy rebate" funded by new taxes on oil companies, a move that would slow the oil giants' investments in research, exploration and recovery and thus could ultimately cause oil prices to rise even further.

Obama nonetheless is right about energy more often than he's wrong, and also is right more often than McCain. The latter, once an opponent of offshore oil drilling, now talks about little else, even though it would have no short-term effect on oil prices and would wreck pristine coastlines, exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions and do almost nothing to reduce the need for oil imports.

Obama is correct that the U.S. must make its cars, buildings and appliances more energy-efficient. It must get more of its electricity from renewable sources such as the wind and the sun, and it must modernize the grid to handle these new sources. It must invest more in sustainable biofuels such as cellulosic (not corn-derived) ethanol, and it must come up with a way to make carbon emitters pay for their pollution.

Ending our oil addiction will be an immense struggle, and Obama deserves credit for pointing out that we must first admit we have a problem, then commit to solving it. GOP leaders -- lately including McCain, who was once more environmentally responsible -- simply want to give the country another fix. That might win votes, but it will improve nothing.

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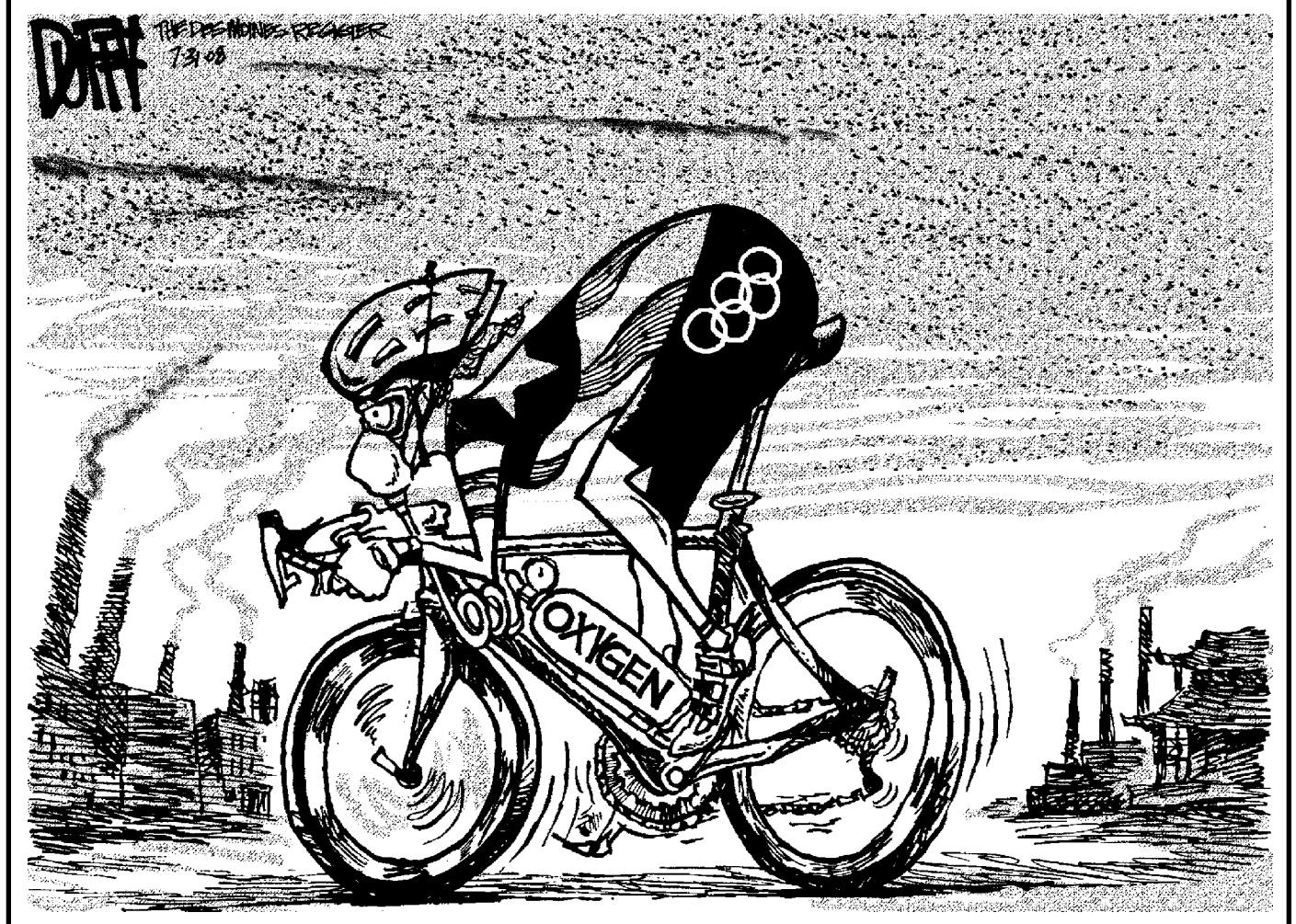


Protecting them protects us

By JEFFREY DAVIDOW
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Davidow, president of the Institute of the Americas in La Jolla, Calif., served as U.S. ambassador to Zambia, Venezuela and Mexico in the Reagan, Clinton and both Bush administrations.

In one of his earliest comedies, Woody Allen had a stereotypical pompous U.S. ambassador bellow to an equally stereotypical group of thuggish Eastern European cops that no American could be dragged off and shot without his personal approval.

The ambassador's shout was an understandable, if tortured, explication of something we all know and value: Our diplomatic and consular officials overseas have a primordial responsibility to protect the rights and interests of our citizens traveling and working abroad. The right of people traveling abroad to have immediate assistance from their consulates is so basic that it is enshrined in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, a global treaty endorsed by the United States and about 170 other nations.

No citizen is more in need of consular support than one who faces the terrifying ordeal of arrest and imprisonment under a foreign legal system. Immediate access to a consular representative provides trustworthy guidance through the morass of a bewildering judicial process and affords a secure link to home. In some parts of the world, consular assistance is all that stands between foreign prisoners and abuse, torture or even death in custody.

Because thousands of U.S. citizens are jailed abroad every year (sometimes for no good reason), anything that diminishes the power of American consuls to assist them in their time of need is cause for concern. Yet current developments in our own nation are threatening the power of American consuls.

At issue are the cases of 51 Mexican nationals who were arrested, tried and sentenced to death in the United States but were denied consular notification and access. Mexico sought a remedy for these U.S. breaches of the Vienna Convention at the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial arm of the United Nations and the international body that the U.S. and other Vienna Convention signatories had agreed would resolve such disputes. The United States was the strongest proponent of the court at the time of the formation of the United Nations and was the first nation to invoke its jurisdiction related to the Vienna Convention, in a case filed against Iran during the 1980 hostage crisis.

The court heard the case filed by Mexico and, after hearings that involved the full participation of the United States, directed a modest remedy consistent with our nation's commitment to the rule of law: a judicial proceeding in each of the cases to determine whether each defendant's case was prejudiced by not having consular access. In 2004, the Bush administration attempted to enforce the court judgment by directing states to provide that judicial review.

The U.S. Supreme Court, however, in the Medellin vs. Texas decision issued in March, held that although the United States—and its individual states—are indeed bound by international law to comply with the International Court of Justice decision, neither that decision nor President Bush's directive is directly enforceable in domestic courts without action on the part of Congress. On July 14, legislation was introduced in the House calling for the implementation of the ICJ's judgment. On July 16, the U.N. court again issued an order directing the United States to prevent the imminent execution of five of the Mexican nationals on death row in Texas.

Thus far, Texas has refused to stay its hand until Congress can act, and instead is proceeding toward the execution Tuesday of Jose Medellin, one of the Mexican nationals.

So we now find ourselves on the brink of an irrevocable violation of the most important treaty governing consular assistance for our citizens detained in other countries. A failure to comply with this most basic of treaty commitments would significantly impair the ability of our diplomats and leaders to protect the interests—individual and collective—of Americans abroad. Were the tables turned—U.S. citizens arrested abroad and denied consular access, with an ICJ judgment requiring review of those cases for prejudice, and another nation refusing to comply—our leaders would rightly demand that compliance be forthcoming.

I am not personally opposed to the death penalty. But this case is not about the United States' or Texas' rights to implement criminal laws. This case is about our unequivocal treaty obligation to comply with an International Court of Justice judgment and the Vienna Convention, which has allowed diplomats such as myself to save hundreds if not thousands of American lives.

The proposed legislation in Congress is a laudable step, but Congress should move swiftly on it to ensure this country's commitment to its treaty obligations. Meantime, Texas should not move forward with its planned executions while the political branches of the U.S. work to ensure compliance with the ICJ's judgment. A failure to honor our obligation here may undercut our ability to protect our own citizens overseas.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Salute to a wonderful lady

Please print this simple letter of appreciation to a wonderful lady for her thoughtfulness and her appreciation for the indigenous culture and its people.

One afternoon, as I waiting for a friend in the restaurant of Century Hotel, Lynn Knight showed up. I invited her over to my table to inquire about something. Out of curiosity, I asked her why she wasn't running for the non-voting delegate as her name was mentioned earlier on. She told me that after considerable time thinking about it, she decided not to because this was a historical time for the indigenous people and they should have the opportunity first.

My ride arrived to pick me up, but as I drove away I could not stop thinking of what Lynn Knight had said about this historical event and opportunity presented for the indigenous people. Ms. Knight had the opportunity to run, certainly the qualifications and maybe even a lot of supporters, but she instead made way for the indigenous people to have the first crack at it. This is so thoughtful of this wonderful lady.

On behalf of all the indigenous people in the Commonwealth and the Democratic Party, I salute you and send my best wishes to you and your family.

David M. Cing
Tinian

Thanks, Alexie!

The Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument would like to acknowledge the contributions of Alexie Zotomayor, editor of *The Island Locator* magazine, through her article "The Proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument: Boon or Bane," which first appeared in the *Locator*'s June 2008. The article is well written, objective and was well-received. She was honored last week for her article at a dinner at Marianas Restaurant on Navy Hill.

The Friends of the MTMM have been using reprints of her article as their primary tool and public relations handout in their on-island informational/educational efforts. The article examines the pros and cons of the proposed marine monument in an informed and admirably even-handed approach, which makes it especially useful to those who have not heard of the proposed marine monument.

Zotomayor said she "strived to remain objective and neutral, and present both sides of the argument about the marine monument"—which indeed she did. In the end with all the facts in hand, she said, "she found herself in support of the marine monument."

The Friends of the MTMM thanked Zotomayor as they ordered another 1,000 copies of the article for use in their campaign to promote the designation of the waters surrounding the islands of Maug, Asuncion, and Uracas as a national marine monument.

Thanks again for your support, Alexie!

Ken Kramer
Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument

Look who's talking now

I find the situation described in the Monday, Aug. 4, article "Measure seeks penalty for ignoring lawmakers' public records requests" not only interesting but sad.

The situation is interesting in that a member of the Legislature is sponsoring a bill to require government employees to comply with requests for public records by members of the Legislature within 10 days of a written request. Failure to comply will leave the employee at risk to be charged with contempt.

What's wrong with this bill? Nothing really. Look who's sponsoring it, though. This is the same body that exempted itself from the Open Government Act. Just what are we saying? This is sad to say the least.

This is a good example of why we are in such a mess. The proper thing to do is to make the Open Government Act applicable to the Legislature. The only reason I can find for their opposition to the applicability of the Open Government Act is that they will have to then reveal how the $150,000 that each legislator receives spends it. Right now, there is no accountability and the money can be spent in the way they see fit, including on personal matters.

Is this what we want? I do not think so. We must change.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Nukes in the 'hood

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

This is the time of the year when the Commonwealth's chief historical legacy makes its annual appearance in the public press. I refer, of course, to Tinian's status as roost for the August 6 mission of the *Enola Gay*.

Well, the anniversary of that date was an eternity ago in this era of fast news cycles, so when it comes to the martial application of nukes, or the specter thereof, the Middle East will be reclaiming the media limelight.

But I wouldn't turn my attention away from Saipan's neighborhood entirely. It looks to me like our Asian neighborhood is a prime candidate for an eventual nuclear arms race. Any substantial industrial nation in Asia has the capability to make nuclear weapons, at least if we consider nuclear power plants as the key to this capability.

Overall, Asia (as broadly defined) actually has more producing reactors (110) than the United States does (104). That's according to data posted on the Web by the World Nuclear Association. The gap will widen, of course, as Asia continues to advance. While bemoaning the high cost of oil, the United States has exactly zero (zero!) new nuclear plants under construction. Japan, by contrast, has two being built; South Korea, four; China, seven; and though Taiwan may already have nuclear plants I don't know many more they have planned.

Industrial Asia has, for the most part, enjoyed a span of generally peaceful times. These have coincided with the large presence of U.S. forces in the region. But as the military marches on its wallet, and as the U.S. economy continues to decline (remember, I foresaw the falling dollar years ago, and warned you numerous times), its stature as the guarantor of Asian peace and security will likewise atrophy.

Then? Militarily speaking, Asia will be wide open, baby.

At this point, we reach the wild difference between intent and capability. Any nation, militarily, can only be judged by its capability; intent, by contrast, can change with the wind (and you can't even read it anyway). That's basic strategic thinking. So, any nation in Asia that wants to be ensured of its survival will have to gauge that goal based on the relative capability, not the mere intent, of its neighbors, and the arms race dynamic will be primed.

Which is to say that the biggest threat in a rough bar is the toughest dude in the joint, even if he just called you "buddy" and bought your girlfriend a drink. And Asia can be a very rough bar indeed.

To the American mind, the only issue with Asia is whether Uncle Sam and China will duke it out someday. It's a valid issue, of course, but possibly only in the short run. In a generation, it's possible that Asia will simply regard the U.S. as irrelevant. Wealth and vigor follow free markets, and Asia is the future of free markets, at least to the extent that free markets have a future at all.

In the meantime, it will be interesting to see if Asia's arms industries start developing. If they do, it will be pregnant with meaning. I haven't cooked up a way to track this stuff, but I'm sure there are financial types who track it for investors. Beyond that, I suspect that the new members of "Club Nuke" might be a lot closer to Saipan than the Middle East is.

That's what I think.

Buddy.

On half-baked federal policies

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Policy is defined as a "course of action" or "procedure." Research and analysis are conducted on a thorough basis to ensure that all substantive issues are considered and organized before the final draft is made.

Data gathering includes public hearings with the people who would be affected by the planned policy. It is a critical process especially when the targeted population *doesn't benefit from equal representation* in such powerful chambers as the U.S. Congress.

The evolution of new federal policies on labor and immigration is loaded with intellectual arrogance. It isn't surprising how Western policymakers emerge from the conceit that all wisdom is contained in its disciplines. What of our inaudible voices in a political landscape that excludes our being equally represented?

The purposeful exclusion of our sentiment is obvious when the final policy should have included at least a portion of Marianas history, culture and values of our people. Isn't it true that in order to understand a society, one must study the depth of their culture that gives clarity to a way of life? History is replete with evidence that the culture of any society outlasts any and all facets of conquerors' imported ways and it is for this reason that we're still here today.

It's sad that the U.S. has been here for over 60 years, yet there's purposeful exclusion of our sentiments on matters pertaining to our livelihood today and over the long term. *It is clear that evil geniuses behind the construct of new mandates were bent on perpetuating neo-colonialism in the CNMI.* How do we know if this isn't the gradual fortification of the islands as what happened here during the CIA's NTTU operations?

Too, it is mind boggling that there's hardly a holistic approach to improving dismal economic conditions in the islands. *The new dictates simply violate the very essence of the Covenant Agreement that mandates the US government to ensure a "progressively higher standard of living" for our people.* Economic annihilation of the new policies runs contrary to this provision of law under the agreement. It's very clear too how intellectual arrogance and failure dominated the manner these policies were handled. They simply placed their pride and dominance first and foremost over our livelihood.

As though there isn't sufficient inoculation of an impending economic paralysis, a group of staffers headed by Tony Babauta of the U.S. Congress will arrive here on Sunday for more information gathering on federalization of labor and immigration. But then if their half-cocked product is now with the Executive Branch at Pennsylvania Avenue, is the impending mission orchestrated to fulfill the failure of the U.S. Government Accountability Office to submit a thoroughly researched report?

It is also rumored that the real mission of the Tony Babauta and cabal is to support the candidacy (payback time) of their choice. This activity may be perfectly legal, but when it involves the hard-earned nickels and dimes of U.S. taxpayers then it would seem to me a pure political junket that must be paid back in full upon their return to Washington.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to discern that this expenditure is illegal and it brings into focus whether Babauta has any conscience at all. I mean, U.S. taxpayers had to endure skyrocketing cost of fuel at pump stations, loss of family homes in the current housing crisis across the country, and increases in the price of basic goods.

This trip demonstrates the tyrannical strength of the majority that blatantly perpetuates an unjustified sense of omniscience in self-destruction. It's the single pill cure-all that fail to envision the net result: emboldening anti-federal sentiment in the hearts, souls and minds of our people. Local elected officials who subscribe to promoting neo-colonialism in perpetuity have no inkling that they represent the indigenous people. I quiz too if they understand the essence of island nation-building or is the concept too farfetched for their nimble minds?

Finally, the feds must learn to part with its Atlanticist attitude when dealing with the peculiar needs and interest of emerging island nations in Asia and the Pacific. It must understand more and preach less—endeavor to afford due recognition to the uniqueness and uphill challenges facing island communities in all their very essence and circumstance. This could very well trigger understanding—a concept entailing a two-way street—a word we've missed though it's been under our nose for over 60 years. Or it could equally trigger the move to severing the current relationship. The latter is the better alternative!

John S. DelRosario is Secretary of Public Lands and a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune.

Experience counts

I'm not going to bank my life on any swimmer who hasn't experienced being in the eye of a storm. I am not even risking my life or taking a chance when I know that the ocean out there doesn't have friends. This is no different from sticking your hand in a live electrical outlet.

I believe that Governor Fitial is the best swimmer of them all. He has thrilled the eyes of many spectators throughout the CNMI and abroad. He is determined to continue swimming inside the eye of the storm until everything calms down.

Who is the best swimmer of them all in times of crisis and in hard times? I believe it is Gov. Fitial.

Martin M. Sakisat
Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲89° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

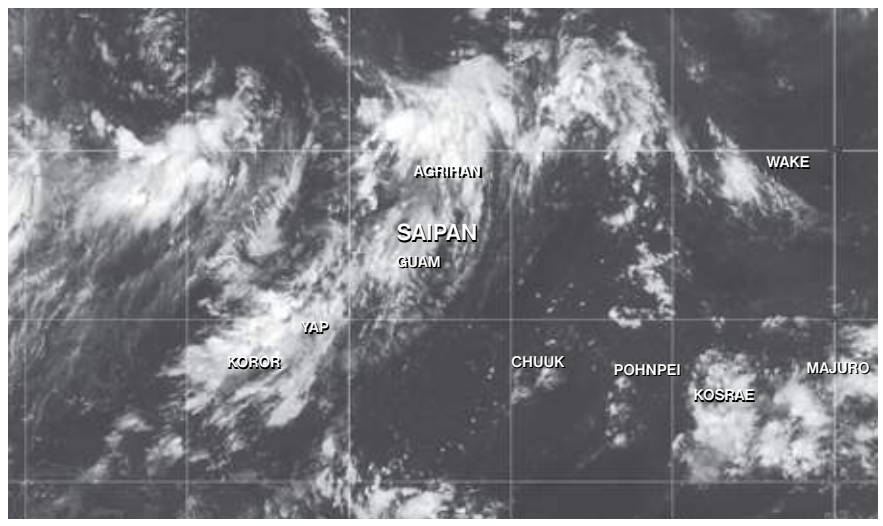
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼52
Beijing	Showers	▲88	▼79
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Showers	▲72	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲59	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲93	▼75
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼64
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼55
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲94	▼77
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼80
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An active monsoon trough in the subtropics north of the Marianas stretches along latitude 23N from 130E to 150E and then turns to the northeast to near 25N158E. Upper-level lows located near 25N130E and 25N148E within the tutt are contributing to this feature. Converging southwesterlies south of the trough axis are helping to create 3 significant areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms as depicted by boxes from 16N to 23B between 130E and 134E from 18N to 24N between 140E and 150E and from 20 to 15N between 150E to 160E. Visual imagery indicates that a low level circulation may be developing in the middle area near 23N144E while a weaker circulation remains east of Okinawa near 25N130E. A weak surface trough and surface convergence stretches south to to the south from west of Palau to a point north or Yap and then just west of the Marianas. Scattered to isolated showers with pockets of thunderstorms are occurring from 5N to 11N between 130E and 139E and mostly scattered showers exists from 13N to 18N between 140E and 144E. A broad area of trade wind convergence near Kosrae and in the Marshalls is helping to develop an area of wide spread scattered showers and pockets of thunderstorms from the equator to 8N between 162E and 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:58AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
1:17PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:28PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:02AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:02AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:44AM	11:19PM
Saturday	12:35AM	
Sunday	1:27PM	12:02AM
Monday	2:20PM	12:48AM
Tuesday	3:11PM	1:37AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

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- Full refund if not 100% satisfied
- Hundreds of designer and budget frames

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Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
Vision Care

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America's Top Ophthalmologists
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State Board of Education
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP# 08-020

The Public School System (PSS) and the State Board of Education are soliciting for request for proposals for an individual/vendor for the One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the **Marianas High School Gymnasium** for PSS. Detailed information on the Scope of Work are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Proposals and (Responsibility Determination-Confidential) documents must be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP # 08-020 "One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the **Marianas High School Gymnasium**" and submitted & labeled one (1) original with three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than August 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Any bids after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, at fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp***. Questions must be in writing and submitted to AP&SO no later than Ten (10) working days prior to the deadline to submit the proposals.

The bidders are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their valid CNMI Business License to conduct Janitorial Services (Supply & Services).

The selection of an individual or firm will be based on the following criteria: Qualification of Firm-30 Points, Performance Record-30 Points and Price-40 Points a total of 100 Points.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

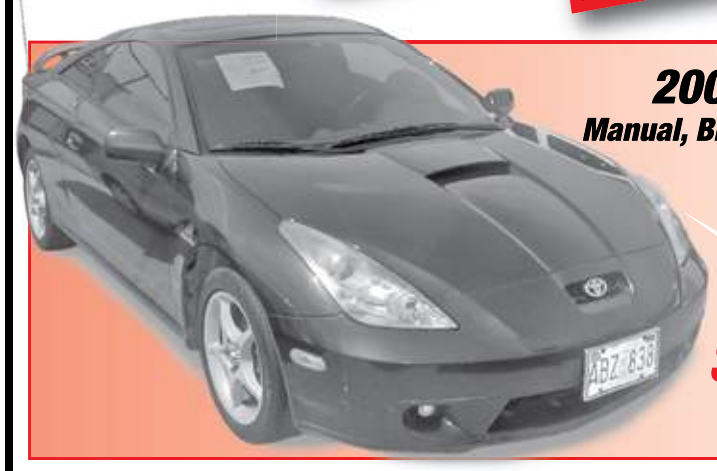
Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3062 or 3077 or faxed to 664-3791.

/S/ Craig H. Garrison
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



2000 CELICA 2DR
Manual, Blue, Stock: U08-043P
License: ABZ838
Mileage: 72097

PRICE
$7,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-005F	2005	AV-EO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~12,499~~	11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

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TOYOTA ACDelco

Marianas Trench Marine Monument

FACT or FICTION? *(part 1 of 2)*

FICTION: The federal government will take over Maug, Asuncion and Uracas.

FACT: The three northernmost islands of Maug, Asuncion and Uracas are protected under the CNMI Constitution. The "Feds" have no intention of changing that status.

FICTION: The "Feds" will deprive the CNMI of commercial fishing rights in CNMI waters.

FACT: There are no "CNMI waters." The courts have decreed that the waters surrounding the CNMI are under federal control.

FICTION: The "Feds" will deprive the CNMI of income from manganese nodule mining.

FACT: If manganese nodules were discovered, any income derived therefrom would go to the "Feds," not the CNMI, since those waters are under federal control.

FICTION: Hawaii had seven years to work on its proposed monument plan. The CNMI should be given the same time frame as Hawaii had for making a decision.

FACT: It took seven years for the indigenous Hawaiians to overcome WESPAC objections to the idea of the monument. The people of Hawaii were in support of the idea from the beginning.

FICTION: The monument will deprive the CNMI fishing industry of important fishing grounds.

FACT: The CNMI fishing industry is already floundering. To expect it to succeed in an area as distant as the Northern Islands is unrealistic, given the distance, the price of fuel, and the unknown quantity of fish. Preliminary studies show that there are not enough fish to sustain a fisheries operation in that area.

FICTION: The CNMI will be deprived of the opportunity for cultural practices and customs by the federalization of the northern islands.

FACT: There is little in the way of known traditional culture and custom associated with those northern islands.

FICTION: Locals were not given a chance to designate the name of the project.

FACT: The present name, Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, is an arbitrary label given to the project by the Pew contingent. It can easily be changed.

Brought to you by the Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

Letters to the Editor

Welcome to the funeral

Funerals are not a big thing on Saipan. They go on all the time, but the one I am writing about has not yet happened and will be a big thing because it could have been avoided.

The death(s) will probably take place at the Microl intersection. It will occur between 8:00-10:00am. It will happen because one vehicle will be going one way and will collide with another vehicle making a left turn. It will be especially sad if children are involved.

It will happen because the Department of Public Safety simply cannot understand the importance of having traffic cops directing traffic when the traffic lights go out at the Microl intersection and at other intersections.

The excuses are the usual—*ta-ya selape, taya* personnel. We are expected to believe that getting traffic cops in place is as difficult as supplying consistent power and drinkable water 24 hours per day, treating sewage or balancing the budget. It is *that* difficult.

Since our Executive Branch seems to bewildered, let me make some suggestions. Every morning at 7:55am, a cop should be at the Microl intersection ready to direct traffic when the lights go out. How hard is that? Need some personnel? Drag the detectives away from solving all those receiving stolen property crimes and have them direct traffic an hour a day. It'll be good exercise for them. Need more help? Ask for and train some volunteers.

It is a miracle that no one has died yet. It took eight deaths before a barrier erected at the 1,000-foot curve in Sadog Tasi. How many will it take before DPS realizes that directing traffic is a matter of public safety. Ignore it, and it will be "welcome to the funeral." The family members of the deceased will not treat the people responsible with respect.

Kenneth L. Govendo
Judge, CNMI Superior Court

Step down now!

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio and Sen. Luis Crisostimo must step down. Correct me if I am wrong, but doesn't the CNMI Constitution require elected officials who are seeking other positions in public office to step down? If this is so, then Rep. Tenorio and Sen. Crisostimo need to follow the law and step down from their positions. If what they are doing is illegal, they should be prosecuted for breaking the law. *Pat hafa mon?*

Jeff Flores
Koblerville, Saipan

☆ TRUTH ☆ HONOR ☆ INTEGRITY ☆

The "usual suspects" have given to the CNMI:
high utility cost, rising consumer prices, the CUC debacle, the La Fiesta mess, reduced funding for education, zero economic growth, "federalization", reduced number of health care professionals and a $218 million deficit. Now, some of them want to take their show to the halls of the United States Congress.
Really!
When is enough, enough??
If you want integrity in office and REAL representation for ALL of the people of the CNMI,

Elect

John H. Davis, Jr.
CNMI Delegate
to the
United States Congress

☆ JUSTICE ☆ EQUALITY ☆

☆ VOTE ☆ VOTE ☆ VOTE ☆

Joeten Motors **Certified*** **USED CARS**

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Kia Spectra
STOCK # 55151646
$9,995.00

2005 Nissan Sentra
STOCK # 5L474083
$11,995.00*

2001 Nissan Xterra 4x4
STOCK # 1C528913
$10,995.00

1999 Volkswagon Beetle
STOCK # XM464684
$6,995.00*

2006 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 6L023683
$13,995.00*

2005 Nissan Murano AWD
STOCK # 5W414457
$18,995.00

1999 Toyota 4Runner 4x4
STOCK # X0221184
$9,995.00*

2004 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 4H606499
$12,995.00*

2003 Kia Sorento LX
STOCK # 35176610
$9,995.00

2005 Ford Ranger
STOCK # 5PA78255
$12,995.00*

2005 Nissan 350Z
STOCK # 5M654094
$22,995.00*

2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C702102
$21,995.00*

Michael Kim
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4
STOCK # 4UC14321
$13,995.00*

2005 Honda Pilot 4x4
STOCK # 5H528401
$22,995.00*

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* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

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From left to right, Victor P. Camacho, executive director, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam; Phillip Santos, chairman of the board, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam; Peter Valdez, vice president and Tamuning Branch manager, First Hawaiian Bank; and George L. Johnson, board of directors, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Make-A-Wish gets $2.5K check, furniture from FHB

HAGATNA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank is donating furniture from its old Tamuning Branch along with a $2,500 contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam, according to a bank statement issued yesterday

Laura-Lynn Dacanay, FHB's senior vice president, Guam and CNMI region manager, and vice president and Tamuning Branch manager Peter Valdez presented a check for $2,500 in addition to the furniture donation to Victor P. Camacho, executive director of Guam's Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"First Hawaiian Bank has been a longtime supporter and friend of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam. Through their annual Kokua Ma`i campaign, employees from Dededo, Maite and Tamuning branches donate over $4,000 each year. Adding this contribution of furniture and funds serves as a strong reminder of First Hawaiian Bank's commitment to Guam's local community. Through First Hawaiian Bank's generosity, we will continue to fulfill our mission to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy," said Camacho.

"First Hawaiian Bank is delighted to have found a new home for the furniture from the old Tamuning Branch," said Dacanay. "We are glad to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation which has been granting wishes to children in our island community."

Through the generosity of donors and sponsors, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization, grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to help speed their recovery or to just put a smile on their face.

First Hawaiian Bank, with assets of $13 billion, was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. This year the bank is celebrating 150 years in business, including 38 years on Guam. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. ***(FHB)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-CSC-086 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 03, 2008 **TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

"JANITORIAL AND LAWN CARE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUILDING NO. 1211, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED CONTRACTOR MAY CONTACT ANGIE SABLAN AT (670) 322-4663 DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS FROM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FOR A SCHEDULED SITE VISIT OF THE FACILITY.

CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE LABOR, TOOLS, EQUIPMENTS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE JOB.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ NORBERT S. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPS-087
Submission/Opening Date: August 22, 2008 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) WATERCRAFTS W/TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY OFFICE"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ ANICETO T. OGUMORO
ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-088
Submission/Opening Date: August 22, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PRINTING OF THE W.I.C. FOOD VOUCHERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, W.I.C. PROGRAM"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive during regular working hours. **Any inquiries regarding this ITB may be addressed to Mr. James SN. Montenegro, System Administrator at 664-4067.**

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NISSAN
2008 Summer Sales Event

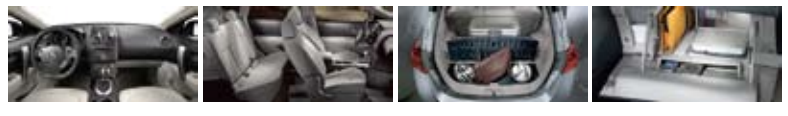
The All-New Altima
Luxury. Now available to all.
UP TO 31 MPG**

Push Button Ignition. Intelligent Key. Available Bluetooth® Hands-Free Phone System. Bringing performance and luxury to drivers everywhere.

Introducing Rogue
A whole new crossover
UP TO 27 MPG**

The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.

The All-New '09 Nissan Murano
IN STOCK NOW!



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
~~Frontier SE~~	~~#7C40890~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$26,990.00~~

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
~~Sorento~~	~~#6560698~~ SOLD	~~Green~~	~~$18,995.00~~

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
~~F-150~~	~~#6NB057~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$21,990.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Fit	#7S031086	Silver	$14,995.00
~~Fit Sport~~	~~#7S03110~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,495.00~~
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

Joeten Motors 30th ANNIVERSARY

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

ESGR to host 'Briefing with The Boss' today

Capt. Josephine Blas, public affairs director for the Guam-CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee said that a "Briefing with the Boss" will be conducted in addition to a "DOD Patriot Award" presentation this Friday, beginning at 11:30am at the Fiesta Resort & Spa, with over 70 public and private employers scheduled to attend.

"This is the right thing to do and the right time to do it. Many of our employers on Guam and in the CNMI are uncertain and concerned over their responsibilities to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. This informative briefing will provide employers answers to ensure compliance with the USERRA Law, and suggestions on how best to manage their employees who serve their country in the National Guard and Reserve," said Blas.

"Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 600,000 National Guard and Reserve men and women across the United States have left their families and employers to serve on active duty in the Global War on Terrorism. More than 2,500 are members of the Guard and Reserve, and of that number, almost 500 are currently deployed away from their loved ones and places of business. Many of these deployed Guard and Reserve members serve, work, and live in our community. The outpouring of support from the home front has been overwhelming. None of this could have been possible without the strong backing from employers of the brave men and women who serve this great Nation, and our Islands," added Blas.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through informal mediation.

Contact Blas at 671-735-0456 or 671-483-0324 or Rose Igitol in the local ESGR Guam-CNMI Office at 670-288-5426 for more information on ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities. ***(PR)***

NMC hosts free information session

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free information session on Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the As Terlaje Campus.

Representatives from different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid and admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions. Current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC and fielding questions.

Individuals who attend this free information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the Fall 2008 semester.

NMC offers numerous degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers many certificate programs in different vocational, academic and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ELOY T. DELA CRUZ and SHIRLEY ANN R. DELA CRUZ (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 23, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 29, 2002, under Document No. 02-2209 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Kagman and hereafter described:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on February 29, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $85,060.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $85,060.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency****

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

HERMAN M. GUERRERO aka Herman M. Deleon Guerrero and Asunta T. Guerrero aka Asunta T. Deleon Guerrero (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 18, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 18, 1983, under Document No. 17740 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in San Vicente and hereafter described:

Tract number 20472-9, and containing an area of 926 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 2064/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 14154, on the 26th day of March, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 11, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $91,150.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $91,150.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments[1]

III. New Business
- a. Resolution for Suzuki Foundation Account
- b. Selection of COE Applicant

IV. Executive Session[2]
- a. Deliberation of COE Applicants

V. Miscellaneous Matters

VI. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VII. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $95,020.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than **August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $95,020.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONSONG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $58,240.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than **August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $58,240.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

VICENTE W. KAIPAT and LEONILA S. KAIPAT (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 21, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 10, 1994, under Document No. 94-1199 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Koblerville and hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 330, containing an area of 1,109 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 07, dated September 8, 1982, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 18433, dated September 30, 1983 the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 19, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $116,930.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $116,930.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Found dog

If you lost a gentle brown and dark brown/black dog with longer hair and a full coat, please contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. We have a nice dog that would like to go home to its family.

NMC to offer NCLEX classes

The Northern Marianas College will offer a preparatory class for the National Council Licensure Examination. The course is sponsored by NMC's Area Health Education Center.

The NCLEX classes will begin on Aug. 11, 2008. Those interested in enrolling in the class must register on or before Aug. 5, 2008 by contacting the AHEC Office at 234-5498, ext. 1010 or 1019.

For more information, contact David Apatang at the same number or stop by the Community Development Institute Office in Building P at NMC's As Terlaje Campus. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on FDM today

The U.S. military is conducting live fire training on the northern island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, Aug. 8, between 8am and 7pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office advises the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to avoid the Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Any questions should be directed to the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16 and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

DEQ hosts Rota storage tank meeting

The Division of Environmental Quality is asking the Rota public to attend a meeting today, Aug. 8, at 11am, in the Office of the Mayor conference room to learn more about historical land use and underground storage tanks on the island, and ultimately close them in an environmentally friendly manner.

DEQ is conducing a site survey on the three islands to identify locations of tanks that may be contaminated or have possible leaks. The department is seeking also to gather information from the public about potential storage tanks and land use storage tanks.

The department is looking for sites of fuel dispensing facilities or former gasoline stations. The sites may have been abandoned or redeveloped years ago. Duenas & Associates, Inc. will conduct the survey.

NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will conduct an English placement test on the following days:

- Aug. 11 5pm-8pm Room D-1
- Aug. 20 5pm-8pm Room A-9
- Aug. 21 8am-11am Room A-9

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1212. ***(NMC)***

NMC Math Placement Test Schedules

Aug. 12 10am-12pm
Room: D-1
5pm-7pm Room: D-1
Aug. 14 10am-12pm
Room: D-1
5pm-7pm Room: D-1
Aug. 19 10am-12pm
Room: A-9
Aug. 21 5pm-7pm
Room: A-9

Children's Fun Day on Sunday

The first ever Children's Fun Day will be held this Sunday, Aug. 10 from 2pm to 4pm at Kilili Pavilion, Susupe. Parents are urged to bring their kids so they can enjoy the food and entertainment prepared for them. Admission is free.

More than 300 children are expected, in addition to the children with disabilities who already accepted the invitation.

The event is made possible through donations from PIC Saipan, Rotary Club of Saipan, Eli Arago, Horizons, Inc., MBI and Philpan. Pledges are still being accepted.

For inquiries, text Irene at 285 7717 or email at irenebdi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

SSHS registration schedule

All students that have been evaluated and graduated from Hopwood are required to register. You are not officially enrolled if your parents/legal guardians did not submit a registration form.

Forms can be picked up from the SSHS Office and submitted by Aug. 22, 2008 for you to be enrolled in SSHS.

All returning students that attended last year must return all your textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class schedule.

Schedules Pickup

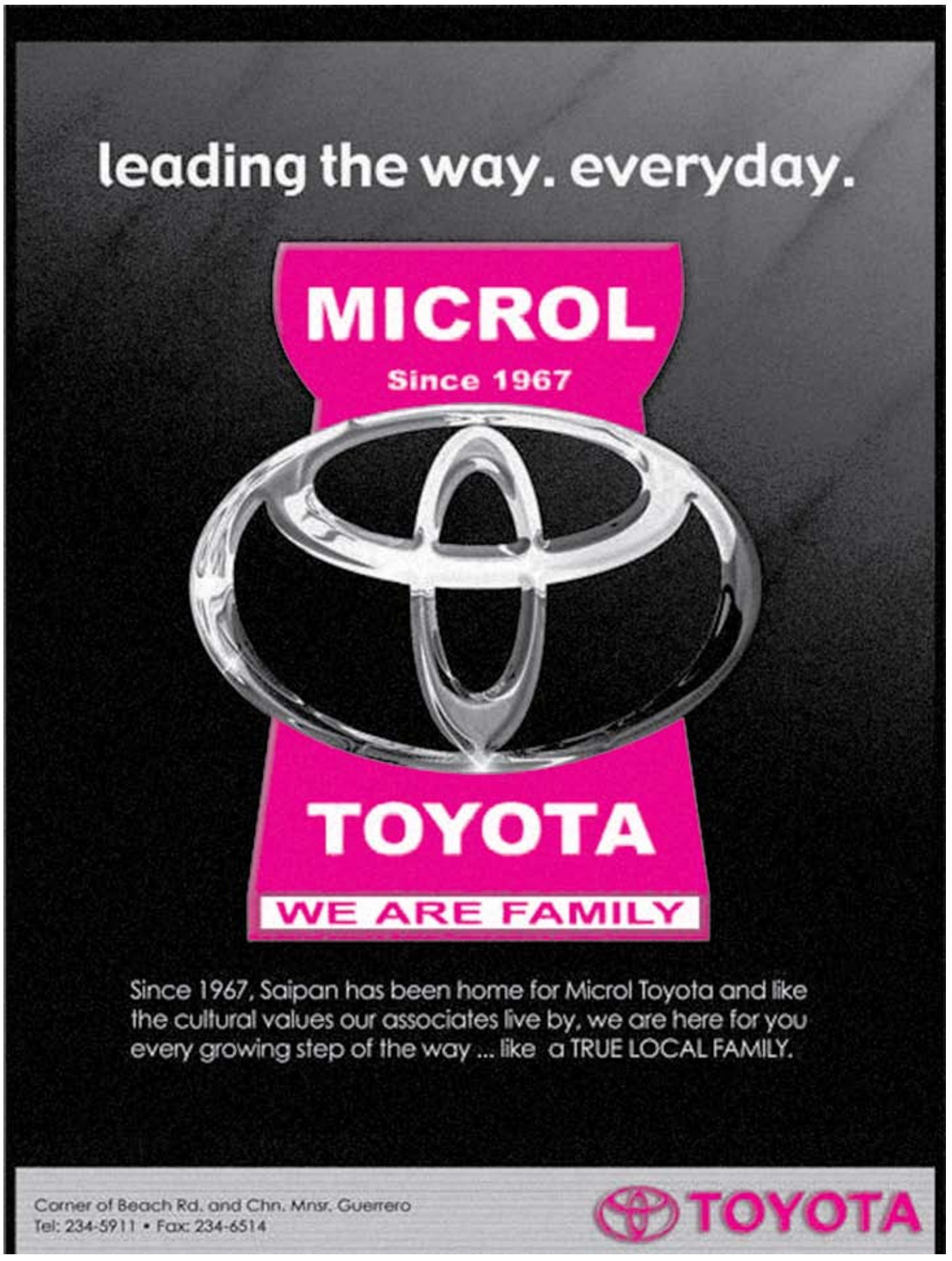
Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling Office as follows:

Seniors (12th) Sept. 2, 2008 8am to 1pm
Juniors (11th) Sept. 3, 2008 8am to 1pm
Sophomores (10th) Sept. 4, 2008 8am to 1pm

New Student Orientation & Class Schedule:

Sept. 5, 2008, 9am to 11am: All transfer and new student coming from private or public school are *required* to attend the orientation with their parents or legal guardians. Schedules will be passed out after orientation.

If you have any questions about registration or orientation, call 664-4000 or 237-3710. ***(PR)***


leading the way. everyday.
MICROL
Since 1967
TOYOTA
WE ARE FAMILY
Since 1967, Saipan has been home for Microl Toyota and like the cultural values our associates live by, we are here for you every growing step of the way ... like a TRUE LOCAL FAMILY.
Corner of Beach Rd. and Chn. Mnsr. Guerrero
Tel: 234-5911 • Fax: 234-6514
TOYOTA

NMC group seeks to maximize use of new software

To enhance the services provided to Northern Marianas College students, NMC president Carmen Fernandez recently formed a working group—the Power Users Group—to maximize the benefits that recently-upgraded, comprehensive student information software can provide.

The PowerCAMPUS Unified Digital Campus program will streamline the registration process by allowing students to register for classes more quickly and easily. The software will also accelerate the billing portion of registration, the preparation of lengthy financial reports and the turnaround time for the processing of transcripts.

Equally important, the software will better enable the College to track and report student achievement data that are required for accreditation purposes. Reports that had to be produced manually before now only take the push of a button.

"The Power Users Group is composed of dynamic individuals who are passionate about simplifying tasks that used to be too time consuming and cumbersome," said Fernandez. "I have no doubt the NMC community will soon realize the practical benefits of their work through shorter registration lines, a more efficient admission process and a quicker turnaround time on routine requests."

Fernandez named staff and faculty members to the Power Users Group Aug. 3, 2008. The Power Users Group consists of key individuals who regularly use the software to tap into the College's database. Members also went through a two-week training session that was facilitated by the software's vendor.

Heading the group is Joyce Taro of Academic Programs and Services, and serving as vice-chair is Leo Pangelinan from Counseling Programs and Services. Other members include Rose Cepeda (Admissions), James Santos and Eric Abragan (Information Technology), Solita Barnes (Finance), Janice Tenorio (Student Support Services), Loly Kingzio (Fine Arts Department), Cynthia Deleon Guerrero (School of Education), Colleen Villagomez (Financial Aid), Lisa Hasckaylo (Institutional Effectiveness), Bobbie Hunter (Human Resources), David Apatang (Community Programs & Services) and Wil Maui (Business Department). ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the newly formed Power Users Group pose for a photo after a meeting with NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENEFITS SY 2008-2009

The School Breakfast and Lunch Meal Program provide healthy, nutritious meals with all the food components to make a complete meal. A nominal meal of $.50 per breakfast and $.75 pre lunch will be charged at schools participating in the School Meal Program for meals when school reconvenes. This a reduced price made available through federal grants.

Children from families that are below or meet federal guidelines are eligible for one free breakfast meal one free lunch meal everyday as the school is in session. An example of income eligibility using the federal free meal income table is printed below. A household with two children and two adults are considered a household of four persons and thus will qualify if combined monthly income is $2,297.00 or less.

Applications to receive free meals are available at the schools and the PSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) office located on Saipan: 3rd floor, Retirement Building, Capitol Hill; on Tinian: Tinian Elementary School, and Rota: Rota Jr. High School. Parents should fill out an application, provide supporting documents and return it to PSS FNS office or at the school office where their child/children attends if the parents think they may qualify and wishes for their child/children to receive free meals. Application cannot be approved unless a complete application and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications must be submitted every school year regardless if your child/children was/were receiving free meals in the previous years. **Children who received free meals last year have 30 days from the first day of school to submit applications and are eligible for free meals during this 30 day grace period.**

Families whose children are currently receiving assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) will qualify for the School Meals Program but still need to complete an application yearly. However, please be informed that the PSS – FNS conducts a direct certification with the NAP to ensure your children are in the program. If not all children are receiving food stamp, you must provide income sources (2 recent check stubs, SSI, retirement pension, etc). Completed applications will be processed within ten working days upon receipt. The PSS FNS office will notify you of your application approval or denial. The food services management company vendors will be provided a confidential list of students qualified for free meals.

Applications may be verified of reviewed at any time during the school year. Households receiving free meal benefits must notify PSS FNS office during the school year of any decrease in household size and/or any increase in income over $50 per month or termination of NAP benefits. **Households may apply for free meal benefits any time during the school year as circumstances change such as in cases of unemployment.**

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. If you have such children living with you and you wish to apply for such meals for them, please contact the PSS FNS office.

All applicants who are denied benefits have the right to request a conference to discuss the situation, present information and obtain an explanation of the submitted application or a decision rendered. Applicants may also appeal this decisions by contacting the PSS FNS office.

The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 237-3033/3060/3055/3088 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105 or fax 433-0455, Rota: 237-4046/4047 or fax 532-4020. Please feel free to call us if you would like to get more information on the free meal program.

"In the operation of child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability

/s/ Craig Garrison
Acting Commissioner of Education

/s/ Dorinda M. Salas
Acting FNS Administrator

Native Medicine Symposium expects full day of activities

The Inetnon Amot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch issued yesterday the program for the Native Medicine Symposium, to be held tomorrow, Aug. 9, 2008, at the Man'amko Center in Garapan, Saipan.

The Symposium will start at 8:30am and will end at 4pm. (Because of road closure, take the Sugar King Road and turn right on Husga Avenue to the Man'amko Center.)

The Saturday Native Medicine Symposium Program is as follows:

8:30am Singing of US and CNMI National Anthems
8:40am Brief Remarks

- Isidoro T. Cabrera, President of Inetnon Åmot Natibu/ Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch
- Benigno R. Fitial, Governor, CNMI
- Juan B. Tudela, Mayor of Saipan
- Valentin Taisakan, Mayor of the Northern Islands
- Howard Macaranas for Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao

Presentation of "Fusiños" to the Man'amko Center

9am Introduction of Healers by Manny F. Borja, ANA Grant Project Director

9:10am Panel Discussions. Lino M. Olopai, moderator

10am - 10:30amBreak

10:30am Continuation of Panel Discussions to be followed by questions and answers

11:30 - 12:30pm
Lunch break

12:30pm Presentations/demonstrations by Rota healers

1:30pm Presentations by Tinian healers

2pm Presentations/demonstrations by Saipan healers

3pm PowerPoint Presentation on Traditional Medicine Artifacts by Noel B. Quituqua

3:15 - 3:25pm Short break

3:25 - 3:50pm Break-up into small working groups

3:50 - 4pm Report from small working groups

4pm Acknowledgment by Manny F. Borja, ANA Grant Project Director

The Mistress of Ceremony is Anicia Q. Tomokane.

The panelists include Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, Dr. Daniel C. Lamar, Rafael Rangamar, Lourdes Manglona, Ignacia T. Demapan, Juan Q. Kapileo, and representatives from the Commonwealth Health Center, and the Agriculture Division.

The breakout sessions are to visit the issues of 1) How can we have legislation to protect CNMI medicinal plants locally? 2) How can we make traditional medicine practices a part of the CNMI Public Health System? 3) What are the impacts that developers have on CNMI medicinal plants? 4) The future of Native Medicine Association.

There is also an evaluation of the Symposium and attendees are asked to hand in the evaluation form before they leave.

This Symposium is presented by the Offices of the Mayors of Saipan and the Northern Islands, in partnership with the Inetnon Amot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch. This Symposium is funded, in part, by a grant from the Administration for Native American, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, call 322-0278, or fax 322-0378. You may also visit www.amot-safey.org. ***(PR)***

The Offices of the Mayor of Saipan and the Mayor of Northern Islands,
In Partnership with the Inetnon Åmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch,

N.I.M.O. Northern Islands Mayor's Office

P R E S E N T

Native Medicine Saipan Symposium
"Ta Kontinua Prumaktika I Amot Natibu/Sibwe Sóbweiló Yáyáál Safeyal Faluwasch,"

With Presentations/Demonstrations, and Panel Discussions
by Native Healers and the Community,

On Saturday, 9 August 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
At the Manåmko Center/Office of Aging
(Across Gold's Gym) in Garapan, Saipan.

ANA Administration for Native Americans

FREE ADMISSION

Medicinal plant seedlings and seeds to be available.
Artisans/artists may display and sell arts and craft;
Native medicine vendors may display and sell products.
Lunch is sold by local vendors.

Please call 322-0278 and or visit us at www.amot-safey.org for more information.

This Symposium is funded in part by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to the Inetnon Åmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch (a non-profit corporation).

Because of Road Closure, please follow direction to the Manamko Center:
Coming from the north on Chalan Pale Arnold, turn left on Garapan St. onto Sugar King Rd., then turn right on Husga Ave.
Coming from the south on Chalan Pale Arnold, turn right on Sugar King Rd., then turn right on Husga Ave.
Coming from the west on Garapan St., go straight onto Sugar King Rd., then turn right on Husga Ave.

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Pete A. Tenorio - Delegate

Island Snapshots

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Buddhist priest Kayaki Kansho leads the offering of incense and prayers for World War II victims during the 30th anniversary of Sanpo-en memorial service at the Sanpo-en Peace Monument at Banzai Cliff on Marpi. With Kansho are 30 Japanese students from Osaka, Kyushu, Nagano and Tokyo who are part of the annual cultural exchange summer program, along with 12 chaperones.

HOUSE IS IN SESSION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho talks to Rep. Rosemond B. Santos while Rep. Joseph C. Reyes is on the phone during a session break at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta shares a light moment with his colleagues during a session break at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres talkS to the media during a session break at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WORKERS' ADVOCATE

Hundreds of non-resident workers who have not received their stimulus check listen to human rights advocate Wendy L. Doromal as she answers some questions during a meeting hosted by the Coalition of United Workers (NMI) at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Tuesday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

INVITATION T0 BIDS

WATER TASK FORCE
ITB08-GOV-078

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the REHABILITATION OF ISLEY WATER RESERVOIR in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- General cleaning of the interior of the tank, including removal of all accumulated sediments on the floor of the tank. Sediments to be disposed of at an approved location such as the Marpi Sanitary Landfill.
- General cleaning of the tank's exposed exterior, including the removal of all plant growth on the roof, water blasting of the tank's exposed exterior and removal of all debris.
- Interior and exterior painting including the demolition and removal of existing appurtenances and accessories, and the installation of new accessories as specified in the Construction Documents, including interior and exterior manhole rungs, drying of the interior of the tank, patching cracks and crevices and water blasting where required for a clean surface. The tank floor may require patching of concrete.
- Painting the interior and exterior surfaces where indicated. The specifications Section 07110 for the exterior coating and Section 09900 for the interior coating, specify a particular painting product and paint system, but the specifications allow the contractor to bid am "or equal", paint system. The paint system bid must be an integrated system whereby the manufacturer certifies and warranties the product for a minimum of ten years. The painting system shall be compatible with the surface preparation products and be acceptable by the US EPA for use in a potable water reservoir.
- Periodic inspections, verification of paint thicknesses and leak testing as well as the final clean-up shall be considered a part of the total performance. All records shall be turned over to the Water Task Force Program Manager upon completion and acceptance of the work.

A non-refundable payment of $150 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **July 21, 2008** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **August 5, 2008**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing, addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, and received no later than 4:30 PM on **August 4**, 2008.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB08-GOV-078"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **August 19, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **August 19, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 19, 2008**, and must be received no later than **August 28, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 pm local time, **August 29, 2008.** However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 pm local time on **August 20, 2008**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **Timothy P. Villagomez,**
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement and Supply

Pacific

Pacific Air Forces breaking in new F-22s in Guam

By AUDREY McAVOY
FORT MILL TIMES

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii—The U.S. Air Force has been breaking in its new fleet of F-22s—the world's most advanced fighter jet—this summer by sending five of the planes from cool and dry Alaska to hot and humid Guam for the first time.

The F-22 Raptors, which have unrivaled ability to fly at supersonic speeds for long periods and travel undetected by radar, have been operational for less than three years.

Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska has been home to two F-22 squadrons since last year. It's only the second base to house the stealth fighters, after Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

The July 18-Aug. 2 deployment of five Raptors from the Elmendorf's 90th Fighter Squadron to the U.S. territory marked just the second time the F-22 has ventured outside the 50 states. Its first such trip was early last year, when Pacific Air Forces sent 12 Langley-based F-22s to Okinawa in southern Japan for three months.

The Guam deployment offered the Elmendorf crews a chance to grow accustomed to flying and maintaining the F-22 in Guam's climate.

It also signaled to countries in the region how important the Asia-Pacific is to U.S. security interests.

Guam, about 3,700 miles west of Hawaii, sits near key U.S. allies Japan and South Korea.

It also lies close to North Korea, which is still technically at war with the South because an armistice ending the 1950-53 Korean War has never been replaced with a peace treaty.

Taiwan, the self-governing island China considers a renegade province, is another potential flashpoint.

The U.S. has a one-China policy that opposes Taiwan independence or a referendum on Taiwan's U.N. membership. But the U.S. is also committed to defending the island from an attack by China.

"Guam is a very strategic location," said Maj. Lance Hobson, the 13th Air Force chief of fighter operations. "There's always potential for instability in the region. By exercising our forward presence in a place like Guam, it gives us better capability and demonstrates our dedication to the region."

Normally the Air Force would send more than five fighter jets on a deployment. It limited the number this time, however, because the squadron is still getting used to the F-22.

While in Guam, the Raptors practiced defending the island from an attack in an exercise called "Jungle Shield."

The exercise involved dropping 20 live bombs on Farallon de Medinilla, a military target range in the nearby U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The planes also practiced with F-15s and B-52s.

Staff Sgt. Luke Vetter, the 90th Maintenance Squadron's weapons crew chief, said his team expected weapon systems equipment to break in Guam's humidity and the island's salt air to disrupt the electronics.

But neither turned out to be the case. Even so, the weapons crew had other environmental differences to adjust to, like temperatures of 100 degrees.

"The worst part, I think, was the unexpected rain when we're trying to work," Vetter said.

The Air Force says it will likely send F-22s back to Guam, where the service also rotates F-15s and F-16s from the U.S. mainland.

AP

In this photo provided by the U.S. Air Force, F-22 Raptors fly above Andersen Air Force Base, Guam on Sunday, July 20, 2008. The Air Force has been breaking in its new fleet of F-22s the world's most advanced fighter jet this summer by sending five of the planes from cool and dry Alaska to hot and humid Guam for the first time.

"You use your best weapons to defend your most important interests," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst with the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Va. "Sending the F-22s to Guam definitely signals resolve to countries like China and North Korea. It's the best fighter in the world, so it probably has a deterring effect on any aggressive impulses."

The military has plans to buy 183 F-22s, which each cost around $160 million. The Air Force plans to base three of the seven planned squadrons in the Pacific.

In addition to the two in Alaska, one squadron will be based at Hickam Air Force Base with the Hawaii Air National Guard. Two more squadrons will be based at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

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Phone Promo
i415
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NEW
i335
i855
i570
NEW
i880
3,000 Minute Plan : FREE $49 $99 $99 $149 $179
iShare Plan : FREE $99 $159 $159 $199 $239
3,000 Minute Plan includes:
3,000 cellular minutes · UNLIMITED Push-To-Talk · FREE 180 local SMS (No sharing) · Can be a stand alone plan or used with iShare Plans (May be a mix of the iShare Plans)
iShare Plan includes:
Share cell mins. fr the 3,000 Minute Plan · FREE 60 local SMS (No sharing)
Preferred rates & other conditions for 3,000 Minute Plan & iShare Plans:
Rates per SMS: 5¢ for Guam & Saipan, 5¢ for Phils., 10¢ for US, Alaska & Hawaii, 12¢ for International · Calls to continental US, Hawaii & Alaska at 5¢ /min. · Calls to the Phils. at 25¢ /min. · Guam – CNMI coverage · 20¢ /excess local minute charge · New sign-ups only · No detailed call records for Pay-As-You-Use PTT Plan · 24 month contract · Prices exclude gov't. taxes & fees · Conditions apply.
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Business

Oil prices close below $119 after inventory report

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices briefly dropped below $118 a barrel Wednesday - $30 below their record high - after a jump in U.S. crude and other fuel supplies fed beliefs that high energy prices are eating into demand.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery finished the session down 59 cents at $118.58 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It was crude's lowest settlement price since May 2; prices earlier fell as low as $117.11, a $30, or 20 percent, drop from their trading high of $147.27, reached July 11. Some investors believe a 20 percent pullback signals the beginning of a bear market.

At the pump, falling crude kept weighing on prices. U.S. filling stations hungry for business ratcheted down the price for a gallon of regular on average by another penny overnight to $3.862, according to auto club AAA, Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Prices have now fallen more than 6 percent from all-time highs above $4 a gallon reached July 17.

Oil market traders are paying close attention to see if oil falls below $117, a key resistance level expected to trigger a rash of technical selling by computers programmed to dump oil contracts once prices fall below a certain threshold.

"There's a line in the sand just below $117. If you close below that, it signals traders are giving up on the bull market in oil," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst of the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J. "Subsequent rallies may take us higher, but the highs for the year have probably been put in."

AP

Mike Stewart, a driver with Robison Oil company of Elmsford, N.Y., finishes filling the tank of a residence in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., Wed., Aug. 6, 2008.

Fears of global slowdown buck up the dollar

NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar climbed to eight-week highs against the euro and seven-month highs against the yen as fears of a global slowdown helped the dollar continue its rally.

The dollar rose to 109.54 Japanese yen from 108.17 yen late Tuesday.

Meanwhile the 15-nation euro dropped to $1.5420 from $1.5473 after going as low as $1.5396, and the British pound sank to $1.9475 from $1.9562 ahead of interest-rate decisions by the European Central Bank and Bank of England Thursday.

The dollar gained as gloomy economic signs came in from abroad.

The Japanese government said a monthly index of business conditions was worsening, setting off the yen decline, said Michael Woolfolk, senior currency strategist at the Bank of New York Mellon Corp.

Meanwhile, the German government said industrial orders dropped unexpectedly in June, with orders from elsewhere in Europe leading a decline that underlined pessimism about the outlook for the continent's biggest economy. Orders dropped 2.9 percent in June, following a 1.4 percent drop in May, the Economy Ministry said.

Ashraf Laidi, a currency strategist at CMC Markets, said the decline, the seventh in a row, along with a leaked report by German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung claiming that German second-quarter GDP likely shrunk by 1 percent, would weigh on the European Central Bank at its Thursday meeting.

Banking by phone for the poor

NEW DELHI (AP)—It can scale mountains in a single bound and wend its way down the most wretched roads. It is the mighty cell phone signal - and the latest hope for bringing financial services to the world's masses who don't have access to banks.

Realini

Grameen Solutions, an affiliate of Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus' Grameen Bank, this week teamed with Obopay Inc., a for-profit mobile payment company based in California, to bring banking to a billion poor people using cell phones.

"Today, it's difficult to reach these people," Obopay India Executive Director Aditya Menon said at a news conference in India's financial capital, Mumbai. "If you solve that problem, you are enabling them to enter the economy."

The joint venture plans to launch pilot programs in India and Bangladesh in October and aims to reach 1 billion people globally by 2018, in large part by keeping costs ultra low—possibly through the help of charitable foundations.

Obopay, whose partners include Verizon Wireless, Citigroup, BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd. and AT&T Inc., is already active in the U.S., where customers who want to send money pay 10 cents per transaction. After opening an Obopay account, you can transfer money between bank accounts, credit cards and phones via text messages.

Obopay founder and CEO Carol Realini did not say what transaction fees would be for India and Bangladesh. The announcement comes at a time of increasing convergence between telecom and financial services, especially in the developing world, where far more people have access to cell phones than banks. Mobile banking services have proven popular in the Philippines, Kenya and South Africa, for example.

The payoff could be big for companies providing these services. People who are now "unbanked" in China, India and Brazil alone could generate $85 billion in banking revenue by 2015, according to an estimate by the Boston Consulting Group.

Dubai buys fifth of circus troupe Cirque du Soleil

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The government-controlled developer of palm-shaped islands off Dubai's coast and a related investment arm said Wednesday they have bought a 20 percent stake in international circus touring company Cirque du Soleil.

Property developer Nakheel and investment company Istithmar World Capital did not say how much they paid for their share of the group, which began performing in Quebec nearly a quarter century ago and is today a mainstay of theaters in Las Vegas and the Far East.

The agreement keeps control of the Montreal-based entertainment company in the hands of founder Guy Laliberte, putting to rest for now speculation that the troupe would be sold outright.

"This partnership is the best of both worlds for me and my management team," Laliberte said in a joint statement with Nakheel and Istithmar. "We can keep control of our creative challenges and operations while accelerating our growth doing projects all over the world."

Nakheel and Istithmar are part of Dubai World, a diversified holding company owned by the government of Dubai.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wall Street advances after oil declines

NEW YORK (AP)—SWall Street logged another winning day Wednesday as a drop in oil prices and a better-than-expected profit report from technology bellwether Cisco Systems Inc. helped corral the market's worries about the financial sector. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 40.30, or 0.35 percent, to 11,656.07, after having been down nearly 100 points early in the session. The gain brought the Dow's two-day advance to about 370 points. The blue chips soared Tuesday on the drop in oil, and also in response to a reassuring economic statement from the Federal Reserve. Broader stock indicators also advanced again Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.31, or 0.34 percent, to 1,289.19, and the Nasdaq rose 28.54, or 1.21 percent, to 2,378.37.

Freddie Mac swings to 2Q loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Freddie Mac on Wednesday posted a second-quarter loss that was more than three-times larger than Wall Street expected as a huge number of borrowers with good credit fell behind on their exotic and risky mortgages. Freddie's financial losses were concentrated in a handful of states - notably California, Florida, Nevada, and Arizona - where speculation was rampant, prices skyrocketed, and buyers stretched to the financial limit to afford a home. Freddie is now reeling from loans - made in 2006 and 2007 as the market turned sour - to borrowers with solid credit but little proof of their income, or small or no down payments.

Time Warner 2Q net drops 26 percent

NEW YORK (AP)—Time Warner Inc.'s second-quarter earnings fell 26 percent on declining subscriber fees at its AOL online unit and lower ad revenue at the Time publishing business, the media conglomerate said Wednesday. The company affirmed its full-year financial targets after revenue rose at its film, cable and networks segments. Time Warner also took legal and tax steps that make it possible to split its AOL online business and sell it in parts. The New York-based media conglomerate said net income fell to $792 million, or 22 cents per share, from $1.07 billion, or 28 cents per share, a year ago. Revenue rose 5 percent to $11.6 billion, surpassing Wall Street's estimate of $11.46 billion.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,016.60 Down 1.50 (-0.03%)
HONG KONG	22,079.51 Up 129.76 (+0.59%)
JAKARTA	2,189.082 Up 1.8779 (+0.09%)
TOKYO	13,079.48 Down 175.41 (-1.32%)
K. LUMPUR	1,121.52 Down 12.07 (-1.06%)
MANILA	2,684.64 Down 12.57 (-0.47%)
SINGAPORE	2,828.08 Down 58.70 (-2.03%)
SEOUL	1,562.44 Down 16.27 (-1.03%)
BANGKOK	695.21 Up 18.86 (+2.79%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	11,656.07 +40.30
NASDAQ	2,378.37 +28.54
S&P	1,289.19 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0987
British Pound	0.5135
Canadian Dollar	1.0468
Chinese Renminbi	6.8583
Euro	0.6481
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8056
Indian Rupee	41.9710
Indonesian Rupiah	9,108.0000
Japanese Yen	109.6200
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2840
New Zealand Dollar	1.3931
Philippine Peso	43.8420
Singapore Dollar	1.3843
South Korean Won	1,016.3000
Swiss Franc	1.0582
Taiwan Dollar	30.8500
Thailand Baht	33.6850

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Put your health before work

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Let's face it: Work can be stressful. Even happy news, such as earning a well-deserved promotion, can take a toll if it means long hours while you learn the new job. Staying sane and healthy when work is stressful takes a proactive approach. Make sure you get plenty of exercise and sleep each day; don't assume you can just make up for it later, as short-term crises have a way of dragging on longer than you might expect. If possible, build short, frequent breaks into your day. You might feel like you can't spare the time, but if you're refreshed, you'll be more efficient.

■■■

Nearly half of working mothers say they would take a pay cut if it meant they could spend more time with their children, with about a third saying they would be willing to give up 10 percent or more of their salaries, according to a CareerBuilder.com survey of 880 full-time working women with children living at home.

If that's your dream, don't assume it's impossible. With the economy stalling, many employers are feeling a drop in revenue or funding, and they are looking to pare back costs. To win your employer over, make sure your pitch emphasizes how a reduced scheduled and reduced salary would benefit the organization—not just your work-life balance.

■■■

More than a third of workers feel more relaxed than stressed when they are connected to work by a wireless device, such as a Blackberry, and another 42 percent said they are indifferent to their wireless device, according to Yahoo HotJobs' annual virtual workplace survey. In many cases, though, that relaxed attitude has come with a relaxed attitude toward manners.

Yahoo HotJobs' Managing Editor Tom Musbach offered these tips for appropriate use of wireless devices: Keep your device on vibrate, avoid taking calls when you're in close quarters, don't interrupt meetings or dinners with calls or e-mail and use text messaging and e-mailing when possible, instead of calling.

To Musbach's list, I would add one more: Don't think that texting is somehow invisible—or silent. People sitting next to you at the movies and restaurants don't want to listen to you tap-tap-taping on your keyboard, either.

Let's face it: Work can be stressful.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Avoiding debt for young adults

By David Uffington
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College students often enter adulthood with more than a degree —all too often they enter the adult world saddled with debt. Student loans average $20,000, with credit-card debt reaching nearly $3,000 -- more than double that for graduate students.

Here's a statistic: Less than a quarter of students polled felt prepared to handle finances after college, and 30 percent of freshmen said they weren't prepared to manage their money. Here's a book to tuck into the backpack: "Please Send Money, A Financial Survival Guide for Young Adults on Their Own," by Dara Duguay (Sourcebooks).

"Please Send Money" opens with a comparison of young adults to ostriches: believing that if you ignore a problem, it will go away. All too often, that's the first step toward leaving school weighed down by debt and going on to a young adulthood of money mismanagement.

The book shows how to break that cycle.

Among other things in the book that young adults need to know:

■ Tax chart showing what take-home salaries really look like after taxes are deducted.

■ A credit-card chart showing how long it takes to pay off a credit card if paying only the minimum each month.

■ Tips on buying a car: buy an inexpensive car, bank the money you didn't spend, and watch it turn into a million dollars; don't buy the first day you're out looking; comparison shop; read the paperwork before you sign; don't accept an adjustable interest rate; and get the cost of insurance before you buy.

■ Credit-card debt in college can impact a future career: Run up debt, take on more hours at work, leaving less time to study and lowering grades, putting scholarships at risk, and possibly leading to dropping out.

■ The real costs of setting up a first home after college -- don't forget to calculate the cost of paying back student loans.

■ Marital debt and setting up a budget.

■ The growth of a small investment.

■ Avoiding the path to bankruptcy.

■ Understanding Wall Street.

Parents, if you buy this book for your young adult, read it first before you hand it over. Seventy percent of students polled said they learned money management from their parents. There's something for everyone in this book.

■■■

Grocery packaging, portions shrinking

Grocery manufacturers have figured out that consumers are less disturbed by smaller packages than they are by higher prices. So they're counting on consumers not to notice the smaller packages now on store shelves in increasing numbers for everything from ice cream to sandwich spread.

In some cases, the packaging isn't shrinking, but the contents are. Peanut butter is an example: What used to be an 18-ounce jar of a major brand of peanut butter is now 16.3 ounces—a full serving gone—in the same size jar. It's the same with margarine: same package with less in it.

It's more important than ever to read the unit cost and per-serving price of each item you buy. In many cases, what you're getting now isn't what you were getting only a few months ago. (Double check to be sure that the unit pricing sticker has been changed to reflect the now-smaller item. Some stores are slow to make those changes.)

Those who are dieting or who have special dietary requirements, such as diabetics, need to be extra vigilant about calories and carbs, as the contents of a package could be different, even if it looks the same.

Cooks, too, are finding that recipes are suffering if the ingredients suddenly change. If your recipe calls for a certain amount of tomato paste, check the can to see if it's still the size you expect. The same goes for cake and cookie mixes: If you expect to make cupcakes for three dozen children at school as you always have, check the box to see how many cupcakes the mix will actually make now.

If ever there was a time to investigate store brands, it's now. Let the unit pricing be your guide about whether an individual product is a good buy.

Start clipping and using coupons, even if you haven't done that in the past.

Suggestion: If you have a favorite food that hasn't shrunk yet, and if you can combine a purchase with coupons to make it truly worth your while, load up. Check the expiration dates to make sure you'll use it in time. It's a feel-good step, but one with benefits.

Be nice when firing, and other tips

By Carrie Mason-Draffen
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

MELVILLE, N.Y.—Be nice, even if you have to fire an employee. A new Five O'Clock Club survey shows that managers often do the opposite during the termination process:

82 percent of the job seekers surveyed by the Manhattan career-coaching and outplacement firm received no positive feedback about their time at the company, even those workers who had been with the company for five years or more.

Based solely on their exit interview, 69 percent of the respondents said they wouldn't recommend their employer to other job seekers.

74 percent said that managers could have treated employees more equitably and kindly during an exit interview.

"Managers," said chief operating officer Richard Bayer, "often forget to have a human touch—feedback about performance, both positive and negative, and being able to say a kind word. If you have to terminate an employee, why not leave their dignity intact?"

The Five O'clock Club suggests the following exit interview strategies:

■ Be honest and tell the employee what when wrong.

■ Be positive. "Yes, a kind word helps."

■ Be compassionate. Let them have some control over how and when they leave.

■ Be pragmatic. Have ready written summaries of severance benefits.

■ Seek closure. "Discuss other issues such as professional references, so the employee can formulate a strategy to move forward."

■ Help them move on: Provide employees with outplacement services.

Show your interest, even if it's through your blog

By Mary Ellen Slayter
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Recent law school graduate Brandon Fuller is looking for a job with a nonprofit environmental group.

Overall, Fuller presents well, said Cathy Wasserman, a career coach and author of Idealist.org's Ask Cathy column. "His resume is neat, well-organized and has no typos," she said.

"However, he doesn't demonstrate that he has much environmental experience, aside from his legal classes and a little less than six months of experience as a law clerk working on environmental regulations and legislation. ... In fact, it is not at all clear from this resume that he has more than a passing interest in environmental issues."

Wasserman suggested that Fuller add a section on his volunteer work: "This would allow him to include his blog, which I strongly recommend."

She also suggested adding a professional profile. "Generally, I don't recommend having this kind of a section until someone has had a few years of professional experience," but in his case, it might help.

His education should go at the bottom, as he has a job, she said. And he should bold-face his degrees, not his schools. "Unless someone went to a very prestigious school, it is more important to emphasize what someone focused on, not where they focused on it."

Nation

Record number of US voters may cast paper ballots

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Come November, more Americans might cast their ballots on paper than in any other election in U.S. history.

That wasn't supposed to happen. If everything had gone according to the government's $3 billion plan to upgrade voting technology after the hanging-chad fiasco in Florida in 2000, that sentence would read "electronic machines" instead of paper.

Instead, thousands of touch-screen devices are collecting dust in warehouses from California to Florida, where officials worried about hackers and fed up with technical glitches have replaced the equipment with scanners that will read paper ballots.

An Associated Press Election Research survey has found that 57 percent of the nation's registered voters live in counties that will be relying on paper ballots this fall.

The number of registered voters in jurisdictions that will rely mainly on electronic voting machines has fallen from a high of 44 percent during the 2006 midterm elections to 36 percent. (Much of the rest of the electorate consists of voters in New York state, who will be using old-fashioned pull-lever machines.)

AP

In this Nov. 7, 2006 file photo, a voter casts a paper ballot at a polling place in Chicago.

In fact, because of growth in the electorate over the past decade, expansion of absentee voting rules, and expectations of high turnout for the contest between Barack Obama and John McCain, some experts are predicting a record number of Americans will cast ballots on paper this year.

"More people will be using computer-read paper ballots than at any other time in the nation's history," said Kimball Brace, head of Election Data Services, a consulting firm. "As you get more registered voters and more people in the pool, it exacerbates this bigger issues of paper."

In 2000, about 97 million registered voters lived in counties that relied on some form of paper ballot, Brace said. That figure is expected to top 100 million this fall, according to the AP data.

The return to paper creates extra stress on an already-strapped election system. Cash-poor counties will have to spend tens of millions of dollars printing ballots. Voters, many of them first-timers, may wind up confused by the ballot formats and frustrated by long lines of people waiting to use the scanners. And counting all the paper could hold up the results of the election.

"After 2000, there was a widespread revulsion about paper—everyone had the mental image of the guy cross-eyed looking at the punch-card ballot," said Doug Chapin, director of the watchdog organization Electionline. "But there's no silver bullet. You're trading one set of problems for another."

All states but Idaho have junked the punch-card ballots that caused so much trouble in Florida. But many plan to use paper ballots that require voters to fill in ovals with a pen. The ballots are then read by digital scanners.

Gasoline costs, energy rivet candidates' attention

WASHINGTON (AP)—To understand why Barack Obama and John McCain are emphasizing solutions to the country's energy woes and have scrambled to change their positions, look no further than the voters' distress over $4-a-gallon gasoline and its wide ripple effect.

The presidential candidates' sparring over energy peaked this week as each sought to capitalize on a topic that touches every voter and provides a way to discuss the declining economy at home, national security threats abroad and the changing climate worldwide.

"Sen. McCain's energy plan reads like an early Christmas list for oil and gas lobbyists," Obama charged Wednesday, a day after accusing the GOP of misstating his proposals. He is using the issue to paint the four-term Arizona senator as a Washington insider beholden to special interests while trying to strike a balance on the environment vs. exploration debate that divides Democrats.

Conversely, McCain is leading a Republican Party largely unified in support of oil and gas drilling off U.S. coastlines and is trying to use energy to cut the Democrat's edge in the polls on economic issues. He dubbed Obama "Dr. No" because of his opposition to expanded nuclear power and unlimited offshore drilling. Said McCain on Wednesday: "We need an 'all of the above' plan."

This year energy policies resonate with voters of all political stripes, as high gasoline prices inflate the cost of food, transportation and other necessities. The country's dependence on foreign oil raises national security concerns as U.S. troops fights wars in the oil-rich Middle East. And, the public's concern over global climate change has grown in recent years along with calls for alternative energy sources to curb planet-warming greenhouse gases.

"Almost everyone wants this problem solved," said Andrew Kohut, director of the nonpartisan Pew Research Center. "The candidates are responding to the fact that the public is hurting and crying for relief."

Interviews and surveys bear that out.

"We can help our family less and less" because high gas costs are "pretty bad" and crunching the family's budget, said Renee Wren, a 50-year-old Riverview, Fla., homemaker with three grown children who are semi-dependent and two grandchildren.

Jury seated in lawsuit against Joel Osteen's wife

HOUSTON (AP)—A jury was seated Wednesday in a lawsuit alleging the wife of nationally known pastor Joel Osteen assaulted a flight attendant.

Opening arguments were set for Thursday in a case Victoria Osteen's lawyer called "silly." But Reginald McKamie, attorney for Continental Airlines flight attendant Sharon Brown, said he hopes the trial will show "that celebrity status doesn't take precedence."

Brown accuses Victoria Osteen of assaulting her before the start of a 2005 flight from Houston to Vail, Colo. Brown alleges Victoria Osteen threw her against a bathroom door and elbowed her in the left breast during an angry outburst over a stain on her first-class seat. The Federal Aviation Administration fined Victoria Osteen $3,000 for interfering with a crew member.

Joel Osteen was at his wife's side Wednesday in court. McKamie said he expected to call the couple as witnesses.

AP

Victoria, center, and Joel Osteen, right, talk with their attorney Rusty Hardin outside a courtroom Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008 in Houston.

Joel Osteen preaches at Lakewood Church, a Houston megachurch where about 42,000 people flock each week and where Victoria Osteen is co-pastor. His weekly television address is broadcast nationally and internationally.

Some potential jurors during questioning admitted to being star-struck by the Osteens and that their respect for them might affect their judgment.

"He has gotten me through a lot of tough times. I would believe what he has to say. I have a lot of respect for him," one female in the jury pool said.

Other potential jurors said they didn't like preachers or televangelists and that ministers can lie.

Brown wants an apology and punitive damages amounting to 10 percent of Victoria Osteen's net worth as part of her suit.

Victoria Osteen's lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said before jury selection began Wednesday that Brown's claims are false and that what happened was a "minor incident." Hardin also asked a judge to throw out an FAA report detailing the alleged incident, saying the agency's investigation was "incredibly incomplete."

"This is a very silly case," Hardin told reporters.

Texas executes Mexican-born killer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A Mexican-born condemned prisoner was executed Tuesday night for the rape and murder of two teenage girls 15 years ago after a divided U.S. Supreme Court rejected his request for a reprieve.

"I'm sorry my actions caused you pain. I hope this brings you the closure that you seek. Never harbor hate," Jose Medellin said to those gathered to watch him die. Nine minutes later, at 9:57 p.m., he was pronounced dead.

Medellin's execution, the fifth this year in the nation's busiest capital punishment state, attracted international attention after he raised claims he wasn't allowed to consult the Mexican consulate for legal help following his arrest. State officials say he didn't ask to do so until well after he was convicted of capital murder.

Medellin, 33, was condemned for participating in the 1993 gang rape, beating and strangling of Elizabeth Pena, 16, and Jennifer Ertman, 14. He and five fellow gang members attacked the Houston girls as they were walking home on a June night, raped and tortured them for an hour, then kicked and stomped them before using a belt and shoelaces to strangle them.

Their remains were found four days later. By then, Medellin already had bragged to friends about the killings.

Pena's father, who was among the witnesses, gently tapped the glass that separated him from Medellin as he turned to leave the witness chamber after the execution.

AP

Death penalty advocate Fred Gavin, of Beaumont, Texas, holds up a sign before the scheduled execution of Mexican-born death row inmate Jose Medellin, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008, in Huntsville, Texas.

"We feel relieved," Adolfo Pena said after leaving the prison. "Fifteen years is a long time coming."

Several dozen demonstrators, about evenly divided between favoring and opposing capital punishment, stood outside on opposite sides of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Huntsville Unit.

Boston man probed in Calif. cold case

MARINO, Calif. (AP)—He calls himself Clark Rockefeller, and police say for years he's been dining out on the illustrious name, pretending to be an heir to the oil tycoon. Rockefeller. Descendants of the oil tycoon said he was not related. And the man's true identity remains a mystery because he claims he can't remember anything about his past.

Rockefeller

But investigators want to know whether the man dubbed "Crockefeller" and "Rockephony" by the tabloids is more than an imposter. They want to know if he's linked to an unsolved killing.

The bespectacled 48-year-old has been jailed since being accused of abducting his daughter from Boston's high-society Back Bay neighborhood. Authorities are now trying to determine whether he's connected to a bag of human bones and a married couple who vanished nearly a quarter century ago in this wealthy Los Angeles suburb.

On Wednesday, two homicide detectives from Los Angeles were in Boston to question Rockefeller about Jonathan and Linda Sohus, who vanished without a trace in 1985.

After his arrest last weekend in Baltimore in the alleged kidnapping, it soon became clear the suspect was not a real

But police soon realized Rockefeller's fingerprints matched those on an old license application submitted by Christopher Chichester—a man who lived in a guesthouse on the Sohus' property and was a target of the initial investigation.

The development was the latest in an intriguing case that has repeatedly frustrated investigators since Jonathan Sohus' mother filed a missing persons report 23 years ago.

Police explored various possibilities, including that Chichester had been in love with Linda Sohus and murdered her husband in a fit of jealousy.

But then Chichester disappeared, too, and Sohus' mother died in 1988 without any answers. Lili Hadsell, a former San Marino police sergeant who took the initial missing persons report, said the mother later reported receiving postcards from Linda Sohus from Paris.

9 presumed dead in wildfire chopper crash

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Eight firefighters and a pilot are presumed dead in the crash of a helicopter that had just picked up workers battling a blaze in a Northern California forest, officials said Wednesday.

The helicopter had lifted off from a clearing in a remote, rugged region of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, said Jennifer Rabuck, spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service.

The aircraft was carrying 11 firefighters and two crew members when it went down Tuesday night in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, according to the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Four people were flown to hospitals with severe burns, including two in critical condition, according to the Forest Service.

The Sikorsky S-61N chopper was destroyed by fire after crashing "under unknown circumstances," said FAA spokesman Ian Gregor. FAA and NTSB investigators were headed to the scene, about 215 miles northwest of Sacramento.

Firefighters who were waiting to be picked up helped rescue the injured after the helicopter crashed around 7:30 p.m. and caught fire, Rabuck said. About three dozen firefighters had to spend the night on the mountain because it became too dark for other helicopters to land, she said.

Nine people—a co-pilot and eight firefighters—were still missing in the wreckage and presumed killed. Recovery efforts have been complicated by the remote location, and the wreckage is still burning, Rabuck said.

"It's difficult to access," she said. "It's very remote, very steep and heavily forested."

Three of the injured were at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento on Wednesday; two were in critical condition and one was in serious condition, officials said. The fourth was in Mercy Medical Center in Redding in serious condition.

AP
In this March 19, 2008 file photo, a Sikorsky S-61N helitanker operated by Carson Helicopters, Inc. makes a water drop to control a brush fire in Encino, Texas.

The firefighters had been working at the northern end of a fire burning on more than 27 square miles in the national forest, part of a larger complex of blazes that is mostly contained.

Some of the firefighters, including those in the hospital, were employed by firefighting contractor Grayback Forestry, based in Merlin, Ore.

Mike Wheelock, founder and owner of Grayback, said he was in Sacramento handling notification of families. He would not confirm any deaths.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fla. authorities search for federal agent's killer

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. (AP)—Investigators are searching for the suspect who shot and killed a federal agent outside a busy South Florida post office. Authorities say 52-year-old agent Donald Pettit was with his 12-year-old daughter when he was shot by a man during some sort of fight Tuesday morning in the post office's parking lot. The gunman took off after firing at least one shot. No one else was injured. Pettit's widow pleaded with the public for help Wednesday in finding the suspect. A reward for his capture has been increased to $275,000. Authorities are looking for a man described as between 50 and 60 years old, six feet tall, medium to heavy build, with gray and white bushy hair and "distinctive sagging cheeks."

FBI: Hospital CEO arrested in health care scheme

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A hospital top executive was arrested Wednesday as federal agents raided three medical centers while investigating an alleged scheme to recruit homeless people as phony patients and bill government programs for millions of dollars in unnecessary health services, authorities said. A lawsuit filed Wednesday by the city said the hospitals used homeless people as "human pawns." The hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange counties submitted phony Medicare and Medi-Cal bills for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of homeless patients—including drug addicts and the mentally ill—recruited from downtown's Skid Row, authorities alleged. The investigation was sparked in 2006 by a Los Angeles police investigation of reports that hospitals were dumping homeless patients on the streets.

Judge rejects 4 Sept. 11 settlements as excessive

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for the families of four 9/11 victims are urging a judge to reconsider his decision to reject $28.5 million in settlements that he now says are excessive compared with those other survivors received. U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein had approved four settlements ranging from $5.5 million to $8 million weeks ago, but reversed himself July 24, saying the amounts were "disproportionately large" and that they "embarrass and prejudice" those who settled earlier. He referred to the four victims as "modest wage earners at the Pentagon." Their families were among fewer than 100 who sued over deaths or injuries from the Sept. 11 attacks. More than 5,000 others received money from a special fund established by Congress that distributed more than $7 billion.

US: Ivins solely responsible for anthrax attacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Army scientist Bruce Ivins had custody of highly purified anthrax spores linked to the 2001 attacks that killed five and access to the distinctive envelopes used to mail them, the government declared Wednesday, releasing a stack of documents to support a damning though circumstantial case.

Ivins, a brilliant but deeply troubled man who committed suicide last week, was the anthrax killer whose mailings rattled the nation in the worst bioterror case in U.S. history, just a month after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, federal prosecutors asserted. They were backed by court documents that were a combination of hard DNA evidence, suspicious behavior and, sometimes, outright speculation.

Ivins' attorney said the government was "taking a weird guy and convicting him of mass murder" without real evidence. Republican Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa called for a congressional investigation.

Ivins had submitted false anthrax samples to the FBI to throw investigators off his trail and was unable to provide "an adequate explanation for his late laboratory work hours" around the time of the attacks, according to documents that officials made public to support their conclusions.

Investigators also said he sought to frame unnamed coworkers and had immunized himself against anthrax and yellow fever in early September 2001, several weeks before the first anthrax-laced envelope was received in the mail.

Ivins killed himself last week as investigators closed in, and U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Taylor said at a Justice Department news conference, "We regret that we will not have the opportunity to present evidence to the jury."

Maritime Museum moves WWII boat to be restored

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A vintage World War II landing craft was hauled across a coastal North Carolina town Wednesday and is set to be restored and preserved—one of only about a dozen of its kind believed to be left.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum moved the rare Higgins boat to its Watercraft Center in Beaufort, where restoration work is to begin Thursday.

"There are only four left in the United States, including this one, so it's a very unique boat," museum spokeswoman Michelle McConnell said. "We have the opportunity to restore one of these, which is restoring history."

Few of the wooden boats remained after the war, and some were significantly modified.

The Higgins boat traveled from England to Baltimore to Beaufort before it was transferred from the museum's expansion site at Gallants Channel, museum officials said. Workers had to fabricate and weld a tongue and axle to move the 10-ton, 36-foot boat a mile and a half through the downtown area, she said. It took 45 minutes to move it early Wednesday morning, she said.

The shallow-draft, barge-like boat could transfer troops directly from larger vessels to a beach, making amphibious assaults possible.

Asia

Bush says US firmly opposed to China's repression

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—With all eyes on Beijing, President Bush bluntly told China that America stands in "firm opposition" to the way the communist government represses its own people, a rebuke delivered from the heart of Asia on the cusp of the Olympic Games.

Bush balanced his chiding with praise for China's market reforms and hope that it will embrace freedom, reflecting the delicate balance that Bush seeks to strike with the potent U.S. rival.

Bush

"We speak out for a free press, freedom of assembly, and labor rights not to antagonize China's leaders, but because trusting its people with greater freedom is the only way for China to develop its full potential," Bush said in perhaps his last major Asia address.

"And we press for openness and justice not to impose our beliefs, but to allow the Chinese people to express theirs," the president said.

Bush's brought his message to Thailand, a turbulent democracy. The marquee speech of his three-country trip hailed deepening ties between the U.S. and Asia. He pledged that whoever follows him in the White House will inherit an alliance that is now stronger than ever.

The president planned to quickly pivot from his speech to a full day of outreach toward the people of Myanmar, also known as Burma, who live under military rule across the border.

Yet heading eagerly to the Beijing Olympics himself as a sports fan, Bush faced pressures all around: a desire not to embarrass China in its moment of glory, a call for strong words by those dismayed by China's repression, and a determination to remind the world that he has been pushing China to allow greater freedom during his presidency.

The White House released Bush's prepared remarks about 18 hours in advance, which had the buffer effect of putting a news cycle between his speech and his arrival in Beijing on Thursday.

But his message will surely be noted in China, which has already knocked Bush for intruding in its affairs by hosting Chinese dissidents at the White House ahead of the games.

"The leadership in Beijing will almost certainly find his comments irritating or objectionable," said Sophie Richardson, the Asia advocacy director for Human Rights Watch. "But they will clearly understand that the United States will not impose any real consequences if they do not make progress on human rights."

AP

A Peking Opera performer stands near the Temple of Heaven as she waits for the Olympic Torch to arrive during the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay in Beijing Wednesday Aug. 6, 2008.

Olympic torch in China's ancient Great Wall

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympic flame made one of its final relays Thursday on the eve of the Olympic Games opening ceremony as torchbearers carried it along the ancient Great Wall of China.

After a short ceremony at the landmark Badaling section of the heritage site, hundreds of fans waving yellow and red pompoms cheered on the first torchbearer, Li Zhonghua.

"If you don't go to the Great Wall, then you're not a real man," said a Li, one of China's most famous air force test pilots, who was quoting the late Chairman Mao Zedong.

"It's appropriate for a soldier to start the torch relay for the Great Wall leg, because the Great Wall is a symbol of China and a symbol of the People's Liberation Army," he said.

Rousing music blared through speakers, backed by live drums and the crash of cymbals in a carefully choreographed ceremony, in which a local Communist Party secretary was the first to hold the torch aloft as the crowd was showered in confetti.

The Great Wall is a UNESCO world heritage site, and was started in China's first dynasty, the Qin Dynasty, in 220 B.C., to protect the court from nomadic invaders to the north, although large parts were completed in the Ming Dynasty starting in the 14th century.

Badaling is the tourist leg of the Great Wall, and has been visited by countless foreign dignitaries, including U.S. President Richard Nixon on his historic visit to China in 1972, which led the way to normalization of relations between the two countries.

The 15-minute run along the ancient bricks brought the torch one step closer to ending its long and contentious global tour, which officially concludes Friday night with the lighting of the cauldron during the opening ceremonies of the 29th games.

Where the flame will rest when it arrives at Beijing National Stadium—known as the Bird's Nest—remains a carefully guarded secret. The Chinese have speculated it will light the mouth of a statue of the phoenix, symbolizing that the mythical Greek bird has returned to its nest.

Eighteen runners carried the torch along the Great Wall amid chants of "Beijing jia you, Aoyun jia you,"—"Go Beijing, go Olympics"—as 2,008 gray pigeons were released in the air.

Italian: Poor equipment, errors hurt on K2

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—An Italian who survived an avalanche that killed fellow climbers on the world's second-highest peak said Wednesday poor equipment and a mistake by a porter contributed to the tragedy.

Marco Confortola was among 30 mountaineers who began their ascent of K2 on Friday. He was stranded after an ice fall swept some climbers away and left others stranded in frigid conditions just below the 28,250-foot summit. In all, 11 people died.

Confortola said poor equipment—including ropes and spikes that broke—as well as sloppiness and inexperience were partly to blame for the disaster. A Dutch survivor, Wilco Van Rooijen, has said advance climbers laid ropes in some of the wrong places, including in a treacherous gully known as "The Bottleneck," about 1,150 feet below the summit, where the avalanche later took place.

AP

Italian climber Marco Confortola, who was rescued from K-2's base camp, sits on a bed of a military hospital in Skardu, Pakistan on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

Confortola was rescued from K2 Wednesday and taken to a hospital with severe frostbite on his toes.

"What happened on K2 was the result of many things, one of which was bad luck," he told Italian news agency ANSA. "There was also some sloppiness. A 656-foot rope, very light but strong ... was not brought by a somewhat sloppy porter, which was just the beginning of the problems."

K2 expeditions hire Pakistani tour operators who support them with porter services to carry gear to base camps and supply the camps.

Confortola blamed the first death of a Serbian climber on the equipment, ANSA said.

Child born to surrogate in India in legal limbo

JAIPUR, India (AP)—A child born to an Indian surrogate mother and intended for a Japanese couple is in legal limbo after the pair divorced.

Ikufumi Yamada, 45, and his then-wife Yuki Yamada, 41, signed a surrogacy agreement with Priti Patel in November. But the couple divorced shortly before the girl was born almost two weeks ago and the wife no longer wants to adopt, said Sanjay Arya, the doctor looking after the child. The surrogate mother has also left the child, he said Tuesday.

Commercial surrogacy has been legal in India since 2002 and the child is then legally adopted by its biological parents. But Indian law does not allow single men to adopt.

The father wants to adopt the baby but because he divorced shortly before the birth, he cannot. The child, currently in a hospital in Jaipur city in western Rajasthan state, is now being looked after by Ikufumi Yamada's mother, Arya said.

"The grandmother becomes very emotional when she is told that the child cannot be taken out of India. The lawmakers will have to find some solution for this," Arya said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP govt to Muslim rebels: Vacate villages or face attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government has accused Muslim rebels of occupying several southern villages and displacing about 6,500 people, and has given them until Friday to vacate the area or face attack. Top military and police officials, speaking to reporters Thursday, were responding to complaints from Christian leaders in the southern Philippines who accused the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels of stealing cattle and burning homes in at least three townships. The tensions come at a sensitive time for the peace process. The government and the rebels were set to sign a preliminary accord expanding an autonomous Muslim region in exchange for ending the insurgency, but the Supreme Court, acting on a petition by Christian politicians, blocked it Monday.

Afghanistan accusing Pakistan of aiding insurgents

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's spy agency alleged Wednesday that a Pakistani consulate official directed and funded terrorist activities carried out by a Taliban commander. The allegation will likely further strain the acrimonious relations between the region's two key U.S. allies. Also Wednesday, the U.S. coalition said a U.S. Marine died of wounds sustained when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in the southwestern Farah province while on patrol on Monday. Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security said in a statement that a diplomat at the consulate in the southern Kandahar province gave "orders and money" to Mullah Rahmatullah, a Taliban militant in the region.

Musharraf to visit China despite ouster rumors

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday decided to visit the Beijing Olympic Games despite media reports that the ruling coalition has agreed on steps to remove him. The leaders of Pakistan's main ruling parties met for a second day in Islamabad Wednesday to resolve differences over how to restore dozens of judges fired by Musharraf last year and to consider the unpopular president's fate. Pakistani newspapers, citing unnamed sources, reported that Asif Ali Zardari, head of the largest coalition party, and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who heads the second-biggest party, reached a consensus Tuesday on steps to oust Musharraf.

Foreign activists launch pre-Olympics protests

BEIJING (AP)—Americans unfurled a religious banner in the heart of communist China and other foreign activists protested Wednesday on a range of issues, but authorities handled them with uncharacteristic restraint two days before the Olympics start. The demonstrations were small—groups of no more than four people—and no arrests were reported. The soft touch suggests Beijing might be hoping to repair its image abroad, which has taken a hit over hot-button issues like its human rights record and its policies in Tibet and Sudan. But the rare public protests were quickly condemned by Olympics organizers, who are determined to make sure the communist government's plan for the Beijing Games goes off without a hitch.

World

Israel mulls military option for Iran nukes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel is building up its strike capabilities amid growing anxiety over Iran's nuclear ambitions and appears confident that a military attack would cripple Tehran's atomic program, even if it can't destroy it.

Such talk could be more threat than reality. However, Iran's refusal to accept Western conditions is worrying Israel as is the perception that Washington now prefers diplomacy over confrontation with Tehran.

■ ■ ■ ■

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's premier pledged to free more than 150 Palestinian prisoners in a meeting Wednesday with President Mahmoud Abbas, a gesture meant to energize their sluggish peace talks.

The release could also boost the prestige of the embattled Palestinian leader, whose Fatah movement is engaged in a tense power struggle with the militant Islamic Hamas.

The meeting at Olmert's official Jerusalem residence was the first since the Israeli premier announced last week that he would resign next month because of corruption investigations against him. Palestinians have been seeking assurances that peace talks, started with great fanfare at a U.S.-sponsored conference last November, would continue despite Israel's political turmoil.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Jewish state has purchased 90 F-16I fighter planes that can carry enough fuel to reach Iran, and will receive 11 more by the end of next year. It has bought two new Dolphin submarines from Germany reportedly capable of firing nuclear-armed warheads—in addition to the three it already has.

And this summer it carried out air maneuvers in the Mediterranean that touched off an international debate over whether they were a "dress rehearsal" for an imminent attack, a stern warning to Iran or a just a way to get allies to step up the pressure on Tehran to stop building nukes.

According to foreign media reports, Israeli intelligence is active inside Iranian territory. Israel's military censor, who can impose a range of legal sanctions against journalists operating in the country, does not permit publication of details of such information in news reports written from Israel.

Iraqis fail to agree on election law

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi lawmakers failed Wednesday to agree on a provincial election law and adjourned for the month, casting doubt whether U.S.-backed balloting can be held this year in the country's 18 provinces.

Parliament did manage to sign off on a $21 billion supplemental budget, a move the Iraqis hope will ease U.S. congressional criticism that they aren't paying their fair share of Iraq's reconstruction at a time of economic hardship in the United States.

But the inability to approve the election bill dealt a setback to U.S. hopes for reconciliation among Iraq's rival communities despite the decline in violence.

President Bush had telephoned Iraqi leaders several times over the past week urging them to reach agreement so elections could proceed by the end of the year.

WORLD BRIEFS

Split verdict in first Guantanamo war-crimes trial

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—The conviction of Osama bin Laden's driver by a U.S. military court after a 10-day trial provides an indication of what to expect as dozens more Guantanamo prisoners go to court: shifting charges, secret testimony—and quick verdicts. Salim Hamdan held his head in his hands and appeared to weep Wednesday as the six-member military jury declared the Yemeni guilty of aiding terrorism, which could bring a maximum life sentence. But in a split decision, the jury in America's first war-crimes trial since the aftermath of World War II cleared Hamdan of two charges of conspiracy.

US officials defend Iraq's oil-fed budget surplus

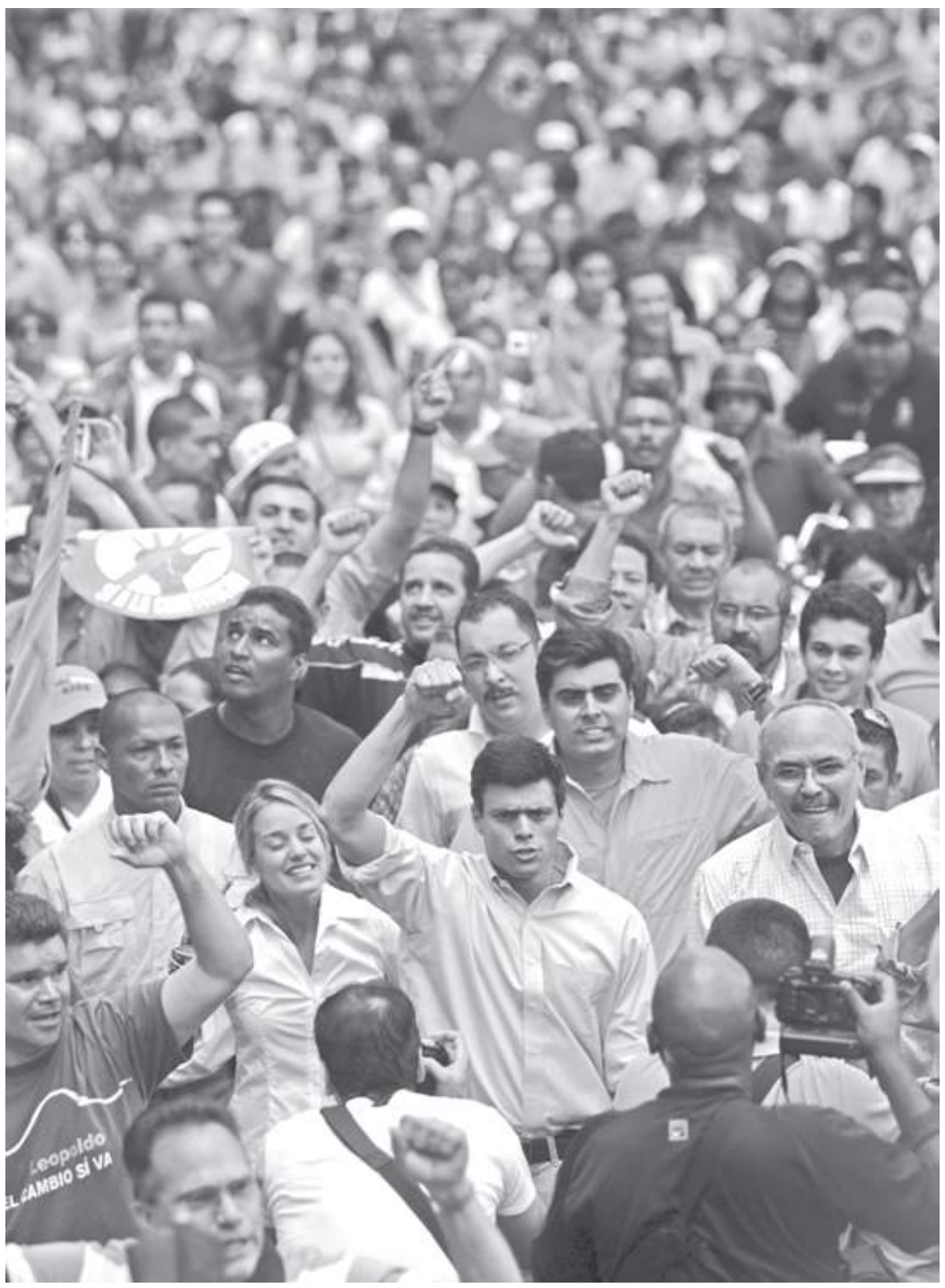
BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq is paying for more of its own reconstruction but is still struggling to spend its multibillion-dollar surplus as it copes with a flood of oil revenue and a cumbersome approval process meant to curb corruption, U.S. officials said Wednesday. Iraq could finish the year with as much as a $79 billion cumulative budget surplus as oil revenues add to leftover income the Iraqis still haven't spent on national rebuilding, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office made public Tuesday. Many Iraqis—who lack adequate electricity, clean water and jobs—find it unfathomable their country is awash in oil dollars. Last year, it spent less than a third of the $12 billion budgeted for major projects such as electricity, housing and water.

Red Cross: Colombia broke Geneva Conventions

GENEVA (AP)—The International Red Cross said Wednesday that Colombia broke the Geneva Conventions by deliberately using the humanitarian group's emblem during the covert military mission that freed Ingrid Betancourt and other hostages. New video footage of the operation contradicts an earlier claim by Colombia's government that the emblem was a last-minute addition to the daring ruse that rescued 15 hostages from the FARC rebel group last month, the Red Cross said. "It seems to be a deliberate improper use of the emblem," said Anna Schaaf, a Red Cross spokesman, noting that is a violation of international law.

Swedish police say human foot on beach identified

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—A human foot that washed up on a beach near a Swedish tourist resort belonged to a 59-year-old man who went missing on the southwestern coast last year, police said Wednesday. Police spokesman Thomas Karlsson said authorities did not suspect foul play, saying the foot separated from the body through natural decomposition. Karlsson said the man went missing near a river in Halmstad in November and probably fell in, with his body being carried out to sea by strong currents. The foot, which was found in Tylosand near Halmstad on July 8, was identified through DNA testing. The foot was still inside a sock and shoe and the find was reminiscent of similar discoveries in Canada. Since last August, four men's feet and a woman's right foot have been found on Canadian beaches.



AP

Leopoldo Lopez, second row center, mayor of Chacao district, leads a protest against Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

Venezuelans protest Chavez's new socialist push

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Riot police used tear gas Wednesday to block hundreds of Venezuelans protesting the latest moves by President Hugo Chavez to concentrate his power. The demonstrators said a blacklist of opposition candidates and a series of socialist decrees are destroying what's left of their democracy.

Though the protest of about 1,000 people chanting "freedom!" was small compared to past marches, there is a growing public outcry over the sidelining of key government opponents ahead of state and local elections in November.

Chavez opponents also are outraged by 26 laws the president just decreed, some of them mirroring the socialist measures voters rejected in a December referendum.

"We said in the referendum that we didn't want that, and now he's put it in the decrees," said protester Josefina Bravo, a 59-year-old who wore a sticker reading "No means no" on her baseball cap. "That's the problem we have: All the powers are concentrated in the president."

Chavez issued the decrees just before the expiration of special legislative powers that allowed him to make laws without National Assembly approval for the past 18 months.

For a time after the defeat of his constitutional referendum in December that would have imposed radical economic changes and let him run for re-election indefinitely, Chavez seemed to be taking a more pragmatic, less confrontational approach to his socialist project.

AP

Mauritania presidential guard chief Gen. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz is seen in this undated photograph released by the Mauritania coup group in Nouakchott, Mauritania, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

Mauritania leader ousted after political feuding

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)—Army commanders ousted Mauritania's first freely elected president in two decades Wednesday after an increasingly bitter political fight over his ties to allies of a reviled former dictator and his overtures to Islamic radicals.

The bloodless coup reflected the internal struggle over how to manage this desperately poor desert nation that straddles the Arab and African worlds and is Africa's newest, if small-scale, oil producer.

Troubles began early Wednesday when President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi fired the country's top four generals, reportedly for supporting lawmakers who had accused him of corruption and disagreed with his reaching out to Islamic militants that previous governments cracked down on.

Troops seized state radio and television and announced the formation of a new "state council" led by the commander of the presidential guard, Gen. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who was one of the four fired generals.

The junta issued no statement on the motivation for the coup or their plans. Sidi Mohamed Ould Maham, a lawmaker who supported the coup, said leaders would appoint a 14-member interim government to govern for six months and hold elections.

Abdallahi was detained by presidential guard units and held at the palace compound, a grandiose, whitewashed complex in the sandy coastal capital, Nouakchott. His spokesman, Abdoulaye Mamadou Ba, said soldiers also detained Prime Minister Yahya Ould Ahmed Waqef.

"He fired the generals and that is his constitutional right. This is a coup d'etat against democracy. ...," Ba told The Associated Press. "President Abdallahi is the victim of a coup concocted by the army with the connivance of lawmakers in parliament."

Off the Wall

Car fence sends message to neighbors

HOOPER, Utah (AP)—A farmer has erected a backyard fence made of three old cars sticking up in the air to send a message to new neighbors that he can do whatever he wants on his property.

"This is just a fun way for me to say, `Hey boys, I'm still here,'" Rhett Davis said. "This is my redneck Stonehenge."

Davis came up with the idea after neighbors who recently moved into homes next to his hayfield complained about his farm.

"The people who bought the homes say, `Well, we love looking into your yard and seeing the horses and the cattle, but we don't like the flies, and we don't like the mosquitoes,' and when I cut my field to bale it, they say, `We don't like the dust in the air,' " Davis said.

Neighbors declined to comment to the Standard-Examiner of Ogden.

Davis said he offered to pay for half the cost of a fence between his property and the others and to build it. He said his neighbors declined the offer, saying it would block their view.

Davis said he used a backhoe to dig three large holes on the edge of his property, then took three cars that had competed in demolition derbies and planted them nose-first into the ground.

He said the cars were planted out of humor rather than spite. He stressed that it's important for new residents to realize that Hooper is a farming community.

Hooper, Utah, resident Rhett Davis poses next to his car fence Thursday, July 31, 2008 in Hooper, Utah. Davis put up the "fence" when his new neighbors refused to go in on putting up a real fence on the property line.

AP

"I respect that they're here and spent a lot on their homes, but on the other hand, give me a little bit, too," Davis said. "I've been here since I was 7 years old."

He said he doesn't intend to keep the cars up permanently.

"These can come out just as easy as they went in," Davis said.

Boy, 11, fires ace in just his 3rd time golfing

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—Golfing for just the third time, 11-year-old Allan Saylor was whacking the ball around with a friend, not even keeping score. A hole-in-one? No big deal. The sixth-grader fired the ace Wednesday on the 150-yard, par-3 sixth hole at the neighboring Mandan Municipal Golf Course, using a driver borrowed from his buddy.

He said the shot felt good at contact.

"It was a pretty low shot, a pretty flat drive," he recalled. "It probably rolled about 10 feet and the rest of it was in the air. It was probably one of my farthest shots."

Allan, whose favorite hobbies have been pheasant hunting and football, said he let out a "whoop" and high-fived his friend, 11-year-old Ethan Luck, when he saw the ball disappear in the hole. But the boys didn't think much more about it.

They were milling about the clubhouse waiting for a ride home when golf pro Patrick Wingard asked about their day at the course.

A group playing a hole ahead of the boys also witnessed the ace. The talk of it had just begun to spread when Allan and his friend finished up.

"I don't think they really thought it was a big deal," Wingard said. "I asked him if he knew what he just did, and he said, 'Not really.'"

Allan was mum about his hole-in-one when he got home, and never told his mom, Karen, about it.

Wily sea lion slips aboard family's Wash. sailboat

This photo released by the Flarry family shows a California sea lion aboard the family's 31-foot Catalina near Clark Island, Wash on Sunday Aug. 3, 2008.

AP

FERNDALE, Wash. (AP)—No one wants to be stuck with a large, uninvited visitor. Especially a sea lion that makes itself at home on a family sailboat—twice.

Lynnea Flarry and her family were picnicking Sunday on Clark Island when her daughter-in-law spotted a sea lion aboard the family's 31-foot boat. The animal had apparently taken advantage of a ladder on the stern of the boat.

Flarry's son and grandchildren took a dingy out to the boat to try to coax the animal back into the water.

When they got close, the sea lion hid "behind the lifesaver like a little kid who hides behind a curtain and doesn't realize his toes are sticking out," Flarry said.

Flarry's granddaughter stayed aboard, taking photo after photo of the sea lion swimming in circles around the boat.

"She was so busy snapping pictures she forgot to bring the ladder up," Flarry said.

The sea lion climbed back onto the boat, and the family returned to evict the animal once again.

Marine mammal rescuers said the animal is likely suffering from the poisoning effects of a toxin found in algae.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man tells 911 slot machine stole his money

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A second Florida man has been arrested on charges of making false 911 calls in as many days. An arrest report says 47-year-old Carlos Gutierrez was at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino early Monday and called 911 to say the slot machine stole his money. The report says Gutierrez left the casino to place a second 911 call to say the same thing. He was arrested and charged with making a false 911 call. He's being held with no bail set. On Sunday another man was arrested after calling 911 five times during an argument with his brother. He demanded that dispatchers send deputies to help sort things out.

26 teen cheerleaders rescued from crammed elevator

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—How many cheerleaders can cram into an elevator? Apparently not 26. A group of teenage girls attending a cheerleading camp on the University of Texas got stuck and had to be rescued after trying to squeeze into an elevator at a residence hall Tuesday night. One girl fainted and was treated at a hospital and released. Two others were treated at the scene. The elevator doors refused to open after the pack of 14- to 17-year-olds descended from the fourth to the first floor, police said. Responding to a few panicked cell phone calls from the group, police and firefighters summoned an elevator repairman, who spent about 25 minutes extricating them. Campus officials weren't amused.

Ohio preacher, 71, convicted in road rage case

CINCINNATI (AP)—A 71-year-old Cincinnati preacher has been convicted of aggravated menacing, after another motorist said he waved a gun and cursed at her. Thomas Howell could get up to six months in jail on the misdemeanor charge when he's sentenced Sept. 4. Howell says he was on his way to First Commandment Church of the Living God in the East Walnut Hills neighborhood when April Evans cut him off on June 23. During Monday's trial, Howell testified that he has a gun and permit but denied ever removing the weapon from its holster. But a Hamilton County municipal court judge sided with Evans, who said the preacher threatened to shoot her and called her names as their cars chased each other.

Woman picks the wrong house to stop for directions

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP)—A woman who allegedly was driving while intoxicated in the Sturgis area picked the wrong house to stop at. Meade County Sheriff Ron Merwin said a 37-year-old woman got lost about 4 a.m. Tuesday and stopped at a home to get directions. The house belongs to one of the sheriff's deputies. The female deputy believed that the woman was intoxicated and would not let her drive away. Merwin said that resulted in a wrestling match. The woman was jailed on charges of felony drunken driving and assaulting the deputy.

Woman riding a donkey fights off lion with machete

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—A Mexican woman said she fought a 500-pound lion with a machete near the resort city of Acapulco and scared him away. Celsa Aleman said she and her 7-year-old niece were riding a donkey Monday along a road when the lion went after the animal's legs. The 35-year-old woman says she found the courage to fight the lion because she thought it would attack her niece. She hit the animal with a machete until the beast ran away. Aleman and her niece were unharmed. The state government said in a statement that the lion had escaped from a private zoo owned by a former local congressman. It said the animal killed two dogs and ate a pig before it was sedated and taken back to the zoo.

111-year-old reptile finally becoming a father

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Officials say an indigenous New Zealand reptile regarded as one of the last living remnants of the dinosaurs will become a father for the first time in decades at the age of 111. Henry the tuatara and his younger mate Mildred produced a dozen eggs last month after mating at the Southland Museum on New Zealand's South Island in March. Tuatara curator Lindsay Hazley said Wednesday Henry has lived at the museum's special enclosure for Tuatara since 1970 and had shown no interest in sex until he recently had a cancerous growth removed from his genitals. He was now enjoying the company of three females and might breed again next March.

Science & Technology

Giant online security hole getting fixed, slowly

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A giant vulnerability in the Internet's design is allowing criminals to silently redirect traffic to Web sites under their control. The problem is being fixed, but its extent remains unknown and many people are still at risk.

The gaping security hole enables a scam that targets ordinary people typing in a legitimate Web address. It happens because hackers are now able to manipulate the machines that help computers find Web sites. If the trick is done properly, computer users are unlikely to detect whether they've landed at a legitimate site or an evil double maintained by someone bent on fraud.

Security experts fear an open season for virus attacks and identity-fraud scams.

"It's kind of like saying, `There's a bunch of money on the street. If you can get over there soon enough, you can get it,'" said Ken Silva, chief technology officer for VeriSign Inc., which manages the ".com" and ".net" directories of Internet addresses. "It's something the industry is taking seriously. You'd be in a bad place if you weren't doing something about it."

The bug's existence was revealed nearly a month ago. Since then, criminals have pulled off at least one successful attack, directing some AT&T Inc. Internet customers in Texas to a fake Google site. The phony page was accompanied by three programs that automatically clicked on ads, with the profits for those clicks flowing back to the hackers.

There are likely worse scams happening that haven't been discovered or publicly disclosed by Internet service providers. "You can bet that the (Internet providers) are going to stay tightlipped about any attacks on their networks," said HD Moore, a security researcher.

The AT&T attack probably would have stayed quiet had it not affected the Internet service of Austin, Texas-based BreakingPoint Systems Inc., which makes machines for testing networking equipment and has Moore as its labs director. He disclosed the incident in hopes it would help uncover more breaches.

AP

In this undated photo provided by IOActive Inc., Dan Kaminsky, director of penetration testing for Seattle-based computer security consultant IOActive Inc., is shown.

The underlying flaw is in the Domain Name System (DNS), a network of millions of servers that translate words typed into Web browsers into numerical codes that computers can understand.

Getting from one place to another on the Internet typically requires a trip through several DNS servers, including some that accept incoming data and store parts of it. That opens them up for potential attack.

What this means is that a computer user in say, San Francisco, might type http://www.yahoo.com and head straight to the real Yahoo site, while at the same moment, a user in New York—whose traffic is routed through different DNS servers—might type that same Web address and end up on a phony duplicate site.

Scant details have been available about how the vulnerability works.

The researcher who discovered it, Dan Kaminsky of Seattle-based computer security consultant IOActive Inc., announced July 8 that he'd found a major weakness in DNS. But he kept the rest secret because he wanted to give companies that run vulnerable servers a month to apply patches—software tweaks that cover the security hole. He coordinated with Microsoft Corp., Cisco Systems Inc., Sun Microsystems Inc. and other major vendors to simultaneously issue patches.

He got two weeks before bad guys and good guys alike accurately guessed the basics of what Kaminsky discovered.

Tips for getting out from under your e-mail

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

How can a hapless e-mail addict wriggle out from under the weight of a bulging in-box? Here are some tips from specialists:

1. Turn off the alert noise. That can help you escape the addictive cycle of reflexively seeing whether something interesting came in then and creating more messages by hitting the "send" button.

2. Limit the number of times per day you check your e-mail. "Whether it's once an hour or once a day—whatever works for you 3. check e-mails at intervals as opposed to constantly reacting," says Deva Hazarika, vice president of Information Overload Research Group.

3. Use clear, informative subject lines. "Hey" as the subject requires that someone open up the e-mail to even know how to prioritize the message. But "4:00 meeting canceled" can be easily digested.

4. Clear your in-box frequently, and file e-mails into appropriate folders.

5. Do not create too many folders. A 2000 study found that the more folders users had, the less efficient message storage and retrieval became.

6. Meet with your co-workers to discuss ways in which e-mail traffic can be reduced for everyone in your work group. That may mean avoiding sending nonessential messages, not sending "OK, thanks" notes that simply acknowledge receipt of a message, picking up the phone or walking to a co-worker's cubicle when a subject is best handled in a conversation.

7. Respect your co-workers' time and attention. Remember that notes sent to them may distract them from important tasks.

8. Use e-mail as a to-do list. This may seem counterintuituive, but according to a 2006 study at the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, e-mail management techniques such as this "may moderate the relationship between e-mail volume and feelings of e-mail overload." In other words, it won't directly help your e-mail problem, but it will create feelings of control.

9. Don't publish your complete e-mail address on blogs and other Web pages. Instead of yourname@server.com, use yourname "at" server.com or yourname @ server.com. That way, robots that crawl the Web looking for e-mail addresses to spam won't detect you—at least until they figure out that people are using "at" or @.

10. If all else fails, consider declaring e-mail bankruptcy.

Greenpeace cites rising e-waste in Africa

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Greenpeace called on the world's electronics companies Tuesday to eliminate hazardous chemicals from their products, saying toxic waste from wealthy nations' gadgets ends up being dumped in poor countries despite laws prohibiting it.

The environmental watchdog made the appeal in a new report on the electronic waste trade, which it said was spreading from Asia to West Africa—particularly Ghana, where discarded TVs and computers that contain toxic materials are being dismantled by children as young as 5.

"Unless companies eliminate all hazardous chemicals from their electronic products and take responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products, this poisonous dumping will continue," said Martin Hojsik, a Greenpeace campaigner. "Electronics companies must not allow their products to end up poisoning the poor around the world."

Many of the old computers, monitors and television sets that end up in Ghana come from the European Union, despite laws there prohibiting the export of such hazardous materials, Greenpeace said. In particular, the report cited shipments from Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands - as well as Korea.

The materials are exported as "second hand goods" and purportedly meant to be reusable. But the report, citing a EU official, said most of these goods imported into Africa are broken and cannot be used again.

In Ghana, the discarded waste is dismantled at scrap yards, where it is crushed or burned to separate plastics from more valuable metals like aluminum or copper, a process that pollutes the environment and exposes workers to toxic fumes.

A Greenpeace team visited two main waste sites in Ghana - one in the capital and another in the smaller city of Korforidua. Soil samples analyzed at Britain's University of Exeter contained phthalates, which are suspected of causing reproductive problems, and lead.

The report noted that while the EU officially prohibits such exports, the United States does not.

Scientists hope for new tricks in data analysis

ATLANTA (AP)—It turns out even computers can have information overload.

Powerful computers can make millions of calculations in a blink of the eye, but that leaves a nettlesome challenge: the task of analyzing the resulting mountains of data.

In response, scientists are exploring new ways to sift through huge troves of information and transform them into tidbits that researchers, health officials and even police officers can act on. The idea received a boost Wednesday as Georgia Tech announced it received a $3 million grant aimed at establishing visual and data analytics as a distinct research field for the first time.

The school hopes to use the grant, funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation, to recruit faculty and staff and develop guidelines for the field.

Researchers have high hopes for the nascent science, but they must first find an efficient way to mine the loads of raw data pumped from the Internet and sophisticated scientific instruments.

"We're looking at fundamental science, fundamental mathematics that in many ways are a mess of jumbled data," said John Stasko, a Georgia Tech professor of interactive computing. "We try to give them a structure, because as humans we make these inferences so much better when our data has structure."

Study finds Net search becoming far more prevalent

NEW YORK (AP)—The search box is everywhere online these days. It's built into Web browsers. It's incorporated into Web sites of all sorts. And it's a major driver of traffic and revenue for Google Inc. and the like.

So it should come as no surprise that nearly half of Internet users conduct a search on a typical day, up from about a third in 2002, the Pew Internet and American Life Project said Wednesday. Search is approaching e-mail as the most popular thing to do on the Internet; about 60 percent use e-mail on any given day.

Users with college degrees, higher incomes and broadband connections are more likely to conduct a search. So are men and younger users.

Firing off queries to search engines seems to be replacing a different kind of Internet starting point that people used to favor: making rounds of checks on previously visited, bookmarked sites.

Whether this shift is making people smarter remains to be seen, of course.

DNA tests to study mummy fetuses in King Tut tomb

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian scientists are carrying out DNA tests on two mummified fetuses found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun to determine whether they are the young pharaoh's offspring, the antiquities authority said Wednesday.

The two tiny female fetuses, between five to seven months in gestational age, were found in King Tut's tomb in Luxor when it was dissevered in 1922.

DNA samples from the fetuses "will be compared to each other, along with those of the mummy of King Tutankhamun," the head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Zahi Hawass, said in a statement.

The testing is part of a wider program to check the DNA of hundreds of mummies to determine their identities and family relations. Hawass said the program could help determine Tutankhamun's family lineage, which has long been a source of mystery among Egyptologists.

The identity of Tut's parents is not firmly known. Many experts believe he is the son of Akhenaten, the 18th Dynasty pharaoh who tried to introduce monotheism to ancient Egypt, and one of Akhenaten's queens, Kiya. But others have suggested he was the son of a lesser known pharaoh who followed Akhenaten.

Scholars believe that at age 12, Tutankhamun married Ankhesenamun—a daughter of Akhenaten by his better known wife Nefertiti—but the couple had no surviving children. There has been no archaeological evidence that Tut, who died around the age of 19 under mysterious circumstances over 3,000 years ago, left any offspring.

Tutankhamun was one of the last kings of Egypt's 18th Dynasty and ruled during a crucial, turmoil-filled period when Akhenaten's monotheism was ended and powers were returned to the priests of ancient Egypt's multiple deities.

The council said that if the tiny mummies are unrelated to Tut, they may have been placed in his tomb to allow him to "live as a newborn in the afterlife."

Ashraf Selim, a radiologist and member of the Egyptian team, said the tests could take several months. So far, the team has carried out CT scans on the two fetuses and taken samples for DNA tests.

"We want to find out the truth and facts relevant to the history of these kings," Selim told The Associated Press.

Since they were found in King Tut's tomb, the mummified fetuses were kept in storage at the Cairo School of Medicine and were never publicly displayed or studied, Selim said.

Hawass has announced ambitious plans for DNA tests on Egyptian mummies, including tests on all royal mummies and the nearly two dozen unidentified ones stored in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. He has said the tests may show that some royal mummies on display are not who archaeologists thought them to be.

One of his top goals is to find the mummy of Nefertiti, the queen legendary for her beauty.

Last year, Egypt announced that archaeologists had identified the mummy of Hatshepsut, Egypt's most powerful queen and the only female pharaoh. But scientists later said they were still analyzing DNA from the bald, 3,500-year-old mummy to try to back up the claim.

Hawass has long rejected DNA testing on Egyptian mummies by foreign experts, and only recently allowed such projects on condition they be done exclusively by Egyptians. A $5 million DNA lab was created at the Egyptian Museum, with funding from the Discovery Channel.

But some experts have warned that Hawass is making claims like that of Hatshepsut too quickly, without submitting samples to a second lab to corroborate DNA tests or publishing the results in peer-reviewed journals, both common practice.

The council announced in its statement Wednesday that the government had agreed with Cairo University's Faculty of Medicine to open a second DNA testing lab, though it did not give details on funding for the lab or when it could begin work.

Abdel-Halim Nour el-Deen, a former head of the council and a leading Egyptologist said DNA testing on mummies thousands of years old is very difficult.

"It is doubtful that it could produce a scientific result to determine such important issues such as the lineage of pharaohs," Nour el-Deen told the AP.

Nour el-Deen also criticized the antiquities authority for not making public the results of the tests already carried out.

AP

In this undated photo released by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, one of the two mummified fetuses found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun in 1922 is seen during preparations for a DNA test in Cairo, Egypt.

Delta to offer Wi-Fi on mainline domestic fleet

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines Inc. said Tuesday it will offer broadband wireless Internet access on its entire domestic mainline fleet by the middle of next year. Several other airlines either offer similar service or plan to, though on a much more limited number of flights.

Atlanta-based Delta said Wi-Fi service will be offered for a fee to customers traveling throughout the continental U.S.

The nation's No. 3 carrier is partnering with Aircell, an airborne communications provider, to install the network on Delta's domestic fleet of more than 330 aircraft.

The system will allow Delta customers traveling with Wi-Fi enabled devices—such as laptops, smartphones and PDAs—to access the Internet while in flight.

A flat fee of $9.95 will be charged on flights of three hours or less, and $12.95 on flights of more than three hours.

The service will be offered initially on Delta's fleet of 133 MD88/90 aircraft and will expand to the remaining domestic fleet of more than 200 Boeing 737, 757 and 767-300 aircraft during the first half of 2009. It expects to have the technology installed on its entire domestic fleet by next summer.

Financial terms of Delta's agreement with Aircell were not released. The airline did not say how much it expects to generate in revenue by offering the service on its mainline domestic flights. Delta spokeswoman Betsy Talton said the airline is considering options for its international fleet and for aircraft used by its regional flying partners, but has no current plans to offer Wi-Fi service on those flights.

American Airlines, a unit of Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp., will offer the same Wi-Fi service as Delta through Aircell later this year on 15 of its 767-200 aircraft, which generally fly transcontinental routes, spokeswoman September Wade said, adding that American announced its plan more than a year ago.

New York-based JetBlue Airways Corp. offers free Wi-Fi service on one aircraft that generally flies transcontinental routes, spokesman Sebastian White said. Tempe, Ariz.-based US Airways Group Inc. plans to offer Wi-Fi service on a trial basis on one Airbus aircraft in the fall, spokeswoman Michelle Mohr said.

Eagan, Minn.-based Northwest Airlines, Chicago-based UAL Corp.'s United Airlines and Orlando, Fla.-based AirTran Airways, a unit of AirTran Holdings Inc., do not offer Wi-Fi on their flights, according to company spokeswomen.

TSA to allow laptops to stay in approved bags

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's a new option for people annoyed at having to take their laptops out of their bags at airport security. The Transportation Security Administration will now allow travelers to leave their computers inside "checkpoint friendly" cases.

The new rules, announced Tuesday and set to take effect Aug. 16, are intended to help streamline the X-ray inspection lines.

TSA said it reached out to bag manufacturers this year to design laptop cases that would provide a clear, unobstructed image of the computer as it passed through an X-ray machine. The agency said the new bags will be available for purchase this month.

To qualify as "checkpoint friendly," a bag must have a designated laptop-only section that unfolds to lie flat on the X-ray machine belt and contains no metal snaps, zippers or buckles and no pockets.

Among the manufacturers selling TSA-approved laptop bags are Mobile Edge, Skooba Design and Targus Inc.

Google launches free music search service in China

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Google Inc. said Wednesday that it has launched a music search service in China that allows users to access music legally online in a forum backed by some record labels and supported by advertising revenue.

Paid music downloads in China are virtually nonexistent, and Apple Inc.'s iTunes digital music store is not offered there. Downloadable pirated versions of songs are widely available for free online.

Google's service, called Music Onebox, directs users to Top100.cn, a site that names as an investor basketball star Yao Ming, to download or stream music for free. Users outside China are blocked from accessing the music.

Top100.cn is a Beijing-based Web site that already has licensing agreements with about 100 labels. Talks are ongoing with Sony BMG and Warner Music Group Corp. to become partners.

"This legal music service will help users avoid dead links, slow downloads, inaccurate search results, and poor quality or incomplete songs," Google said in a statement.

Google said it is not participating in any of the advertising revenue from the site.

The International Federation of Phonographic Industries says more than 99 percent of all music files distributed in China are pirated. It says that despite China's large potential market, the country's legitimate sales of $76 million a year account for less than 1 percent of global sales.

HELP FILE

By Rob Pegoraro
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I would like to know if and when I should upgrade my browser? I think I have Internet Explorer 6.

A: As much as this question made me cringe, I'm glad this reader asked it. Yes, you do need to keep your browser up to date—especially if you're running Internet Explorer 6. That program is frightfully insecure against drive-by downloads and does such a poor job of supporting Web standards that a small but growing number of sites have begun to block it.

Microsoft replaced that version with IE 7, a considerably more secure and more capable successor, in 2006. You should at least install that, although the free Mozilla Firefox 3 (mozilla.com) offers better performance and should be a little easier to use if you've grown accustomed to IE 6's interface.

If your PC runs Windows 2000 or an older release, however, you cannot install either of those browsers. Instead, get the free Opera (opera.com), which should also run a little faster on old computers.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: We keep our computer turned off when we don't use it (which is most of the time). Should we then turn off the power strip it's plugged into, or do we also have to unplug the power strip?

A: Most computers only draw a watt or so of current when turned off but plugged in, so unplugging them—by turning off a power strip or by physically removing a plug—won't save a huge amount of energy or money.

It will, however, ensure that a power surge won't zap the machine. So if there's an electrical storm nearby, or if you'll be out of the house for more than a couple of days, you should go ahead and disconnect the computer. Don't forget to do the same for your Internet connection: the DSL, cable or dial-up modem, as well as any router connected to it.

Life & Style

Possible Shakespearean theater found in London

LONDON (AP)—The theater where "The Merchant of Venice" and "Romeo and Juliet" likely debuted and where William Shakespeare himself may have trodden the boards has likely been discovered in east London, archaeologists at the Museum of London said Wednesday.

The possible foundations of what is known as simply, The Theatre, were unearthed by builders excavating the site—a vacant garage—for another structure. Museum archaeologists were called to the location to make sure nothing was destroyed, and had a eureka moment.

"We were there, scratching our heads, looking into the trenches, thinking, 'this could be it,'" said Jo Lyon, a senior archaeologist at the museum. "So we did some more research, and then we found the angled walls. And we all went, 'Oh my gosh, this should be it.' "

Other theaters of similar vintage also have angled walls, so the discovery was significant. Archaeologists had known for a long time there was a high probability for The Theatre to be on this particular site. But there are no maps that show its location, no images to show what it might have looked like, and only a vague description of it.

"It's in the right place, it's at the right angle to be a polygonal shape," Lyon said. "It's a pretty high possibility."

The possible discovery of The Theatre, built in 1576 and where Shakespeare's troupe performed in the 1590s, could complete the set of open-air theaters where the Bard's plays were staged. The Rose theater's location was discovered in 1989 in Bankside, just south of the River Thames in central London, and the Globe theater is nearby. A replica of the Globe was built on a site close to the original and opened in 1997.

AP

In this undated photo made available in by the Museum of London, in London, Wednesday Aug. 6, 2008, an archeologist works on uncovering the remains of one of London's earliest theatres where a young William Shakespeare is thought to have trod the boards.

Shakespeare's company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, only moved into The Theatre in the 1590s. Until then, they had been performing at the Rose, but a shake up in the London theater scene necessitated the move, said Martin Wiggins, a fellow at the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham.

And in 1597, a dispute with the landlord forced the company to move again, Wiggins said. The company didn't own the ground The Theatre was built on, but Lord Chamberlain's Men did own the material it was built with, so they simply dismantled the entire theater and moved it south across the River Thames, where it was rebuilt and renamed the Globe.

But The Theatre's foundations remained in east London, and that's what archaeologists believe they have found.

"The first thing I want to know about it is what the foundations can tell us about the architecture," Wiggins said. "How big was it? How does it compare with the Rose? How does it compare with the Globe? How similar are they?"

Wiggins said an understanding of what the theater looked like could help Shakespearean scholars understand more about this period in the playwright's history.

"The size of the theater will have an impact on the way the play is written," he said.

Other works that would have been performed during the period Shakespeare's company was at The Theatre would have included "Henry IV," "Richard II," "King John," and "the Merry Wives of Windsor," Wiggins said.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Top 10 Pop Singles This Week Last Week

1. Katy Perry No. 1 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)
2. Rihanna No. 2 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
3. Chris Brown No. 4 "Forever" (Jive)
4. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 3 "Lollipop" (Cash Money)
5. Coldplay No. 7 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)
6. Leona Lewis No. 5 "Bleeding Love" (Syco/3)
7. Natasha Bedingfield No. 6 "Pocketful of Sunshine" (Phonogenic)
8. Lil Wayne No. 8 "A Milli" (Cash Money)
9. Kardinal Offishall feat. Akon No. 14 "Dangerous" (KonLive/Geffen)
10. Jesse McCartney No. 11 "Leavin'" (Hollywood

Top 10 Albums

1. Nas new entry "Untitled" (Def Jam/Columbia)
2. Lil Wayne No. 1 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
3. Soundtrack No. 7 "Mamma Mia!" (Decca)
4. Coldplay No. 2 "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)
5. Soundtrack No. 3 "Camp Rock" (Walt Disney)
6. Kid Rock No. 5 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
7. John Mellencamp new entry "Life Death Love and Freedom" (Hear)
8. David Banner new entry "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (b.i.G. f.a.c.e./SRC/Universal Motown)
9. Taylor Swift new entry "Beautiful Eyes" (EP) (Big Machine)
10. Rihanna No. 8 "Good Girl Gone Bad" (SRP/Def Jam)

AP

Jesse McCartney singing "Leavin."

Top 10 Hot Country Singles

1. Alan Jackson No. 2 "Good Time" (Arista Nashville)
2. Blake Shelton No. 1 "Home" (Warner Bros.)
3. Sugarland No. 5 "All I Want To Do" (Mercury)
4. Brooks & Dunn No. 3 "Put a Girl In It" (Arista Nashville)
5. Keith Urban No. 6 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)
6. Taylor Swift No. 7 "Should've Said No" (Big Machine)
7. Keith Anderson No. 8 "I Still Miss You" (Columbia)
8. Miranda Lambert No. 9 "Gunpowder & Lead" (Columbia)
9. Montgomery Gentry No. 4 "Back When I Knew It All" (Columbia)
10. Josh Gracin No. 11 "We Weren't Crazy" (Lyric Street)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. The Dark Knight (PG-13) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
2. Step Brothers (R) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
3. Mamma Mia! (PG-13) Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgard
4. The X-Files: I Want To Believe (PG-13) David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
5. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson
6. Hancock (PG-13) Will Smith, Charlize Theron
7. WALL-E (G) animated
8. Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) Ron Perlman, Selma Blair
9. Space Chimps (G) animated
10. Wanted (R) James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie

Top 10 Video Rentals

1. Vantage Point (PG-13) Dennis Quaid (Sony Pictures)
2. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) Owen Wilson (Paramount)
3. The Ruins (R) Jonathan Tucker (Paramount/DreamWorks)
4. Stop-Loss (R) Ryan Phillippe (Paramount)
5. 10,000 BC (PG-13) Steven Strait (Warner)
6. Fool's Gold (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey (Warner)
7. The Bucket List (PG-13) Jack Nicholson (Warner)
8. Superhero Movie (PG-13) Drake Bell (Genius/Weinstein)
9. Meet the Browns (PG-13) Tyler Perry (Lionsgate)
10. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Freddie Highmore (Paramount)

Top 10 DVD Sales

1. Batman: Gotham Knight (PG-13) (DC Comics Inc.)
2. Batman Begins (PG-13) (Warner)
3. Vantage Point (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
4. The Ruins (R) (DreamWorks)
5. Superhero Movie (PG-13) (The Weinstein Company)
6. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) (Nickelodeon Video)
7. 10,000 BC (PG-13) (Warner)
8. Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
9. Stargate: Atlantis: The Complete Fourth Season (NR) (MGM)
10. Stop-Loss (R) (Paramount)

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BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

Life With My Sister Madonna, by Christopher Ciccone and Wendy Leigh (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $26) A brother's tale of life with the famous entertainer.

When You Are Engulfed in Flames, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.

Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.

Good Night Bush, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.

The Dark Side, by Jane Mayer (Doubleday: $27.50) Mayer argues that the White House amassed power in the post-9/11 state of panic to devastating results.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Fleeced, by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann (Harper: $26.95) How the average American is being sold out.

What Happened, by Scott McClellan (PublicAffairs: $27.95) The former Bush press secretary says the administration deceived the public about Iraq.

This Land Is Their Land, by Barbara Ehrenreich (Metropolitan Books: $24) A collection of biting essays on pop culture, politics and the economy.

Fiction

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on Hamlet.

Chasing Darkness, by Robert Crais (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) When a man cleared of a murder charge is found dead, Elvis Cole is called to account.

Swan Peak, by James Lee Burke (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) Private eye Dave Robicheaux tries to solve the killings of two Montana college students.

Rules of Deception, by Christopher Reich (Doubleday: $24.95) A doctor is on the run in the Swiss Alps in the aftermath of his wife's death.

The Host, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.

Brida, by Paulo Coelho (Harper: $24.95) An aspiring young Irish magician embarks on a quest for knowledge of the spiritual world.

The Enchantress of Florence, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: $24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

Tribute, by Nora Roberts (Putnam: $26.95) A former child actress tries to discover whether her movie-star grandmother's death was suicide or murder.

The Dawn Patrol, by Don Winslow (Knopf: $23.95) A surfing private eye trying to unravel an insurance scam tangles with thugs in San Diego.

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Kirk Douglas' call to action

By TINA DAUNT
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

For some years now, Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas has been campaigning for a formal apology to blacks for the institution of slavery. Like other advocates, he's been urging Congress and every presidential candidate to go on record for the apology.

More recently, it's become a regular topic on his popular MySpace page, where he often makes the case to the site's many young readers.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed a formal national apology to the descendants of those Americans who were brought here as slaves from Africa. Douglas got the news during a luncheon at the Grill restaurant in Beverly Hills and read the story on a BlackBerry. His eyes misted and he said: "This is the best news I've heard in a long time."

Douglas immediately began making plans to send a letter of commendation to the measure's sponsor, Steve Cohen, D-Tenn.

But more important, the actor got on his Web site and blogged. He urged his site's visitors to sign his petition—which he started two years ago—calling for a national apology for slavery.

"I will compile all the signatures and send them to the President of the United States in hope that he will consider the resolution of an apology," he wrote.

Douglas said: "We will show the world that the strongest nation is capable of humanity."

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I absolutely love "Army Wives," especially the good-looking actor who plays Trevor LeBlanc. What else has he been in? I know I've seen him somewhere else. -- Kimberly T., Spokane, Wash.

A: Drew Fuller has been playing Pfc. Trevor LeBlanc since the show's first season, which began in June 2007. Prior to joining the "Army Wives" cast, Drew had made guest appearances on a handful of television shows, but it wasn't until he was cast as Chris Halliwell on "Charmed" that his career really started to take off. He also has starred in the feature film "The Ultimate Gift," with Abigail Breslin and James Garner, and in the ABC Family made-for-TV movie "The Circuit," with Michelle Trachtenberg and Bill Campbell.

■ ■ ■

Q: Is Paula Deen married? What does she have on her plate this year (pun intended)?—H.F.W., Decatur, Ala.

Paula Deen

A: Paula Deen, host of the Food Network's "Paula's Home Cooking," was married to husband Jimmy Deen from 1965-1989, with whom she has two children, Bobby and Jaime. Paula married tugboat pilot Michael Groover in March 2004. Along with hosting "Paula's Home Cooking," she also owns and operates the very popular Savannah, Ga., restaurant called The Lady & Sons.

Paula's new show, "Paula's Best Dishes," premiered on the Food Network this past June. And, this past May, Paula announced that she had signed a deal to host a talk show for the 2009-2010 television season. Add to that her lifestyle magazine and various cookbooks, not to mention her burgeoning movie career (she played Aunt Dora in "Elizabethtown"), and Paula is one very busy lady!

■ ■ ■

Q: What happened to Johnny Crawford from "The Rifleman" series of the late 1950s and early '60s? I used to have such a crush on him. -- Linda S., Arcadia, Fla.

A: Johnny Crawford, now 62, was best known for his role on the long-running Western, playing Mark McCain, the son of Chuck Connors' character, Lucas McCain. Johnny has an extensive acting resume, dating back to the mid-1950s, getting his big break as an original Mouseketeer in "The Mickey Mouse Club" back in 1955. Nowadays, though, Johnny has been concentrating on his first love: music. Back in the '60s, he had five Top 40 hits, and during the 1980s, became recommitted to pursuing his music career. This fall, look for the debut CD of Johnny's big-band orchestra, The Johnny Crawford Dance Orchestra.

■ ■ ■

Q: Are Heather Locklear and Jack Wagner engaged?—Theo G., via e-mail

A: As of this writing, and to my knowledge, Heather and Jack are not engaged. Heather recently checked into a rehab facility in Arizona for treatment of anxiety and depression. According to her publicist, Sarah Fuller: "Heather has been dealing with anxiety and depression. She requested an in-depth evaluation of her medication and entered into a medical facility for proper diagnosis and treatment."

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

As we remember her passing
unto Eternal Life…

We, the family of

Sylveria Benavente Mendiola
'Berang'

invite our relatives and friends
to join us in prayers as we
commmemorate the First Anniversary
of our departed loved one.

Daily Masses will be celebrated
at St. Jude Church beginning
Friday, August 8, 2008 through
August 16, 2008, as follows:

Aug. 8, Friday – 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 9, Saturday – 7:00 a.m.
Aug. 10, Sunday – 8:00 a.m.
Aug. 11-15 (Mon-Fri) – 6:00 p.m.

On the last day, **August 16, 2008**, Mass
will be celebrated at **6:00 p.m.** Dinner
will be served immediately at the
family's residence in As Lito.

Please join us.

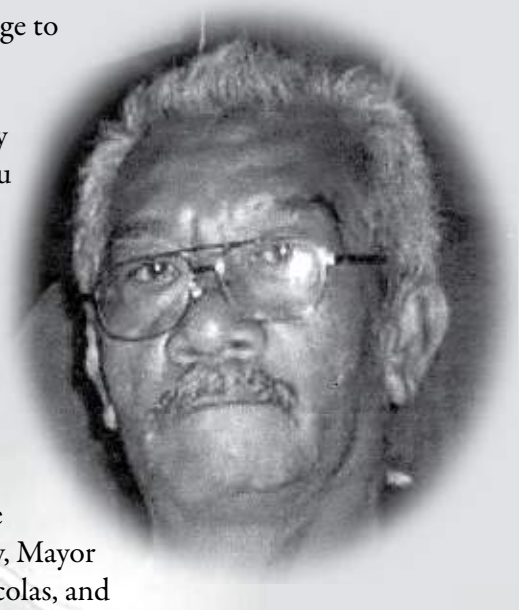
Jacinto B. Mendiola and Children

In Humble Gratitude

MONKEYA LIKIAK KUN

No words can adequately express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far for the kind expression and support throughout our sorrow upon the loss of our dearest and loving husband, father and grandfather.

Your thoughtfulness in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us in bearing the sorrow and our loss. Your words of comfort have given us the strength and courage to endure our trying times.



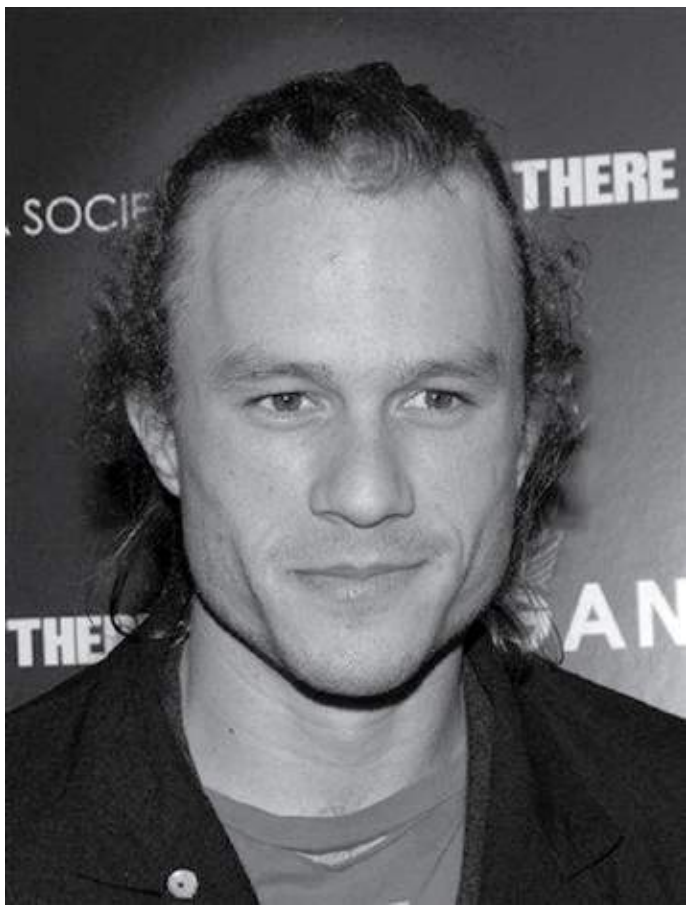
To all who have helped us in one way or another, please be assured that you will always be remembered in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

Special thanks to:
Father Manny Corcuera, Church Choirs, Techa-Ignacia Saures, American Red Cross, Cong. Ben Seman & the Crusillo Members, Tanazan Family from Tinian, Ma-de Family, Saipan-Kosraen Community, Mayor of Tinian-Honorable Jose P. San Nicolas, and Family and Friends from Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Kosrae.

May God Bless Us All.
Thank You, Si Yu'us Maase, Ghilisoow and Kulo Malalap.

Lorenza I. Monkeya, Children and Grandchildren.

Federal investigators drop Ledger drug inquiry



AP

In this Nov. 13, 2007 file photo, actor Heath Ledger attends a special Cinema Society and Hogan hosted screening of "I'm Not There" at the Chelsea West Cinemas, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors have decided not to pursue a criminal case into how Heath Ledger obtained the powerful painkillers that contributed to his overdose death this year, a law enforcement official said Wednesday.

Prosecutors in the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan had been overseeing a Drug Enforcement Administration probe into whether the painkillers found in Ledger's system were obtained illegally. But the prosecutors have bowed out "because they don't believe there's a viable target," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because no charges have been filed.

The decision comes after recent reports that actress Mary-Kate Olsen was demanding immunity before answering questions about the startling death of her close friend and his drug use. Authorities say she was the first person called by a masseuse who found the 28-year-old "Dark Knight" actor's lifeless body in his Manhattan apartment.

The DEA had obtained a subpoena that could have forced Olsen if she continued to hold out. But the subpoena, issued in April, is no longer valid because it was contingent upon prosecutors pursuing the case, the official said Wednesday. The official added that the case could still be revived if evidence of a crime emerges.

Rebekah Carmichael, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office, said it's the office's policy to "neither confirm nor deny the existance of an investigation." There was no immediate response to a message left for Olsen's attorney, Michael C. Miller.

DEA investigators suspect the painkillers found in Ledger's system, oxycodone and hydrocodone, were obtained with phony prescriptions or other illegal means. Oxycodone is sold as OxyContin and hydrocodone as Vicodin.

Miller insisted this week that Olsen, a former child star on the sitcom "Full House," had already told the government she "does not know the source of the drugs Mr. Ledger consumed."

Other potential witnesses apparently answered questions voluntarily, including doctors, Ledger's ex-girlfriend Michelle Williams and people in his apartment around the time of his death.

Other drugs taken by Ledger, including anti-anxiety medication and sleeping pills, were prescribed legally by doctors in California and Texas.

The medical examiner's office wouldn't say what concentrations of each drug were found but made clear he was killed by the combination - not an excess of any one drug in particular. It's common for the DEA to investigate an overdose death with so many different drugs involved, a DEA spokesman said last month.

Witness: Freeman said that woman in crash is a friend

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—The woman who was injured along with Morgan Freeman in a weekend car accident apparently is a friend of the Oscar-winning actor who had offered him a ride home, a crash witness says.

Freeman, 71, was driving a 1997 Nissan Maxima that authorities said belongs to Demaris Meyer, 48, of Memphis, Tenn., when the car veered off a rural road Sunday night a few miles from Freeman's home in the Mississippi Delta. The car flipped at least twice.

Freeman

Bill Rogers, a retired police officer who was the first person to arrive at the scene, said a dazed Freeman told him that he and Meyer were headed to his home in Charleston, a small town some 90 miles south of Memphis.

"He said that she had offered him a ride home; that they were friends and she had offered him a ride home and she didn't really know the way and so he was going to drive the vehicle," Rogers said Tuesday, recalling a conversation he had with the actor.

Freeman's friend and business partner, Bill Luckett, has told the Commercial Appeal newspaper that Meyer is the actor's friend.

Rogers said he talked to Freeman and Meyer in attempt to keep them conscious—something he was trained to do as a police officer.

"They said they were coming from Clarksdale," Rogers said.

Freeman owns several businesses in Clarksdale, about 40 miles from his home, including the Ground Zero Blues Club and a restaurant named Madadi. Ashley Norris, the club's manager, said Wednesday that Freeman had not been there the night of the accident. No one answered the phone at Madadi.

Rescuers used a jaws-of-life machine to free "The Dark Knight" star and Meyer from the wreckage. Freeman was airlifted to the Regional Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn. He suffered a broken arm, broken elbow and shoulder damage.

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Stringer said Wednesday that Freeman was still listed in serious condition. The actor had surgery Monday to reconnect nerves and repair damage to his left arm and hand, according to his publicist, Donna Lee. Lee said Freeman will make a full recovery.

Hospital officials say Meyer isn't listed in the hospital's registry. However, under medical privacy laws, people can request that their names not be listed as patients at a hospital.

A Mississippi Highway Patrol officer said Meyer was in the Tennessee hospital when the agency called to see how she and Freeman were doing Monday night.

Calls to Meyer's home Wednesday were not answered. Her condition was not immediately available. Rogers said Meyer did not appear to be injured as severely as Freeman.

In Humble Gratitude

We, the children of the late

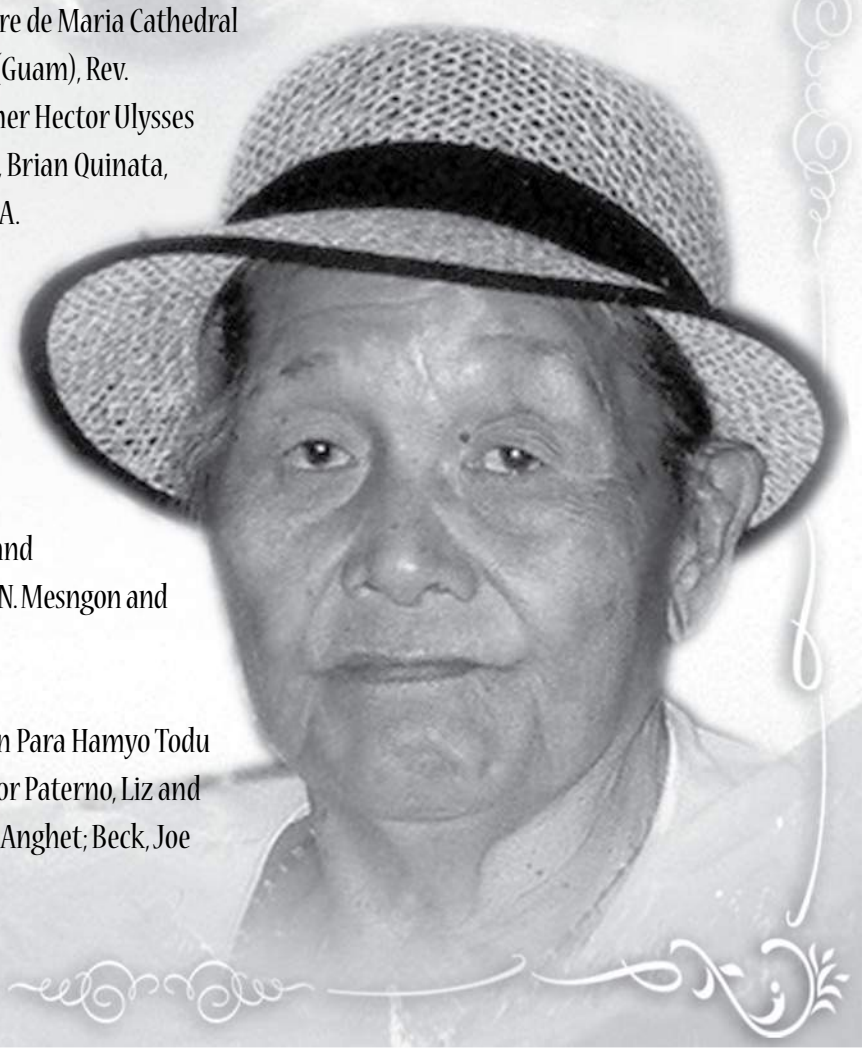
Ana Songao Hocog

July 13, 1932 – July 6, 2008

of Rota extend our sincerest and heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far - who faithfully stood by us in our time of sorrow. We were supported and comforted by your kindness, the many gestures of help and assistance, your loving words, and your offerings of masses and prayers. We thank God for all who joined us in our Mom's daily masses and nightly rosaries on Guam, Rota, and Saipan; the viewing on Guam and Rota; the Celebration of the Eucharistic Mass and then to our loved one's final resting place. We will always treasure in our hearts the many selfless expressions of sympathy and encouragement that gave us the strength to endure our great loss. We will always keep you safely in our thoughts and prayers.

Dankolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase' to Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica and Luis De San Victores Church (Guam), Rev. Monsignor James LG. Benavente, Rev. Father Hector Ulysses Canon, Rev. Father Thomas B. McGrath, SJ, Brian Quinata, Jon John Calvo, Most Rev. Bishop Thomas A. Camacho, Reverend Monsignor Luis Antonelli, Rev. Father Isaac M. Ayuyu, Rev. Father Jesse T. Reyes, Rev. Father Vicente Sepranel, Saint Jude Church, Saipan; San Isidro Church, Luta; San Francisco de Borja Church, Luta; Rosary Techas Eddie Preze (Guam), Malua Peter and Ignacia Saures (Saipan), and Magdalena SN. Mesngon and Engracia O. Manglona (Rota).

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ya Tinayuyut yan Bendision Para Hamyo Todu Ginen As: Dr. Rita, Chris and Family; Senator Paterno, Liz and Family; Mannex; Pete, Bembe and Family; Anghet; Beck, Joe and Family; Ed, Ruby and Family.



Shauna Robertson, one of the guys

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

In her mind, Shauna Robertson is a 23-year-old guy, always ready with a fart joke, an ever-ready plea for more nudity, and a belly laugh for any raunchy gag.

In reality, she's a pretty, 33-year-old, pixie-sized, blond Canadian high school dropout with a producing resume that would make a studio executive's mouth water. That would include "Elf," "Anchorman," "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," "Knocked Up," "Superbad" and "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

I met Robertson last summer in Torrance, Calif., on the set of her new movie, the stoner buddy comedy "Pineapple Express," which hit theaters this week. Frankly, I didn't know there were any women in Judd Apatow's comedy mafia other than Apatow's wife, Leslie Mann. On-screen, it's a guy-centric world, often devoted to male sexual anxiety and ribald language (albeit with a frequently sweet, almost feminine undercurrent).

Furthermore, the employment stats for women in all aspects of the film business has actually gotten worse in the last decade, according to Martha Lauzen, a professor at California State University, San Diego, who tracks this stuff. In 2007, only 22 percent of the top 250 domestic-grossing movies employed a female producer, and Robertson produced two of them.

On the day I met her, the team was filming the sequence in which process server Dale (Seth Rogen) and his drug-dealer-turned-best friend, Saul (James Franco), escape from a hydroponics pot-growing warehouse, and the atmosphere was festive, like a groovy bunch of kids somewhat amazed that the grown-ups had shelled out millions of dollars for their use. In the middle of it all was a tiny, adorable woman, who looked about 12. She buzzed with the high energy of the super-efficient without any of the irritating officiousness or bossiness that occasionally accompanies movie-biz competence. I remember her watching her surroundings as if her antennae were permanently up.

I now understand that what she was doing was producing, as she defines the job. "I think one of a producer's greatest talents is to be able to listen to a bunch of conversations going on at once—the grips and electricians talking to one another, the talent talking to the director over my shoulder. Everyone's problems become my problem, so I can figure them out before they become each others' problems," she said at the time.

I've always found it hard to know what a producer actually does, because almost anybody can hang up a shingle and declare himself or herself a producer. Clearly a business card does not automatically a new Jerry Bruckheimer make. These days, there seem to be a lot of trustafarians or investment-banker types with wads of cash floating around sets. Others are simply people who happen to know a writer and end up attached to a project. And then there are those producers who've worked their way from the ground up, who actually do know about script improvement or set management, or studio jujitsu. And a few (Bruckheimer, Scott Rudin, Brian Grazer) are tastemakers in their own right.

Robertson is clearly in the mold of being a director's best friend, shrink, advocate, personal logician and defender of the vision from budgetary constraints.

I recently had lunch with Robertson, and she brought along "Pineapple Express" director David Gordon Green. While she's hardly shy, she seems vaguely embarrassed that anyone would want to hear her "blather on" about herself. The previous night was "Pineapple's" Los Angeles premiere, which ended with an after-party with 200 of Rogen and co-writer Evan Goldberg's closest friends, in a "purple haze," Robertson said with a laugh. "I saw the people there unscrewing the smoke detectors."

Green has a Southern accent and an earnest manner, as befits the maker of "George Washington" and other micro-budgeted coming-of-age tales set in Southern mill towns. Those are the kinds of films he was doing before Judd Apatow and Robertson enticed him into their camp, via mutual friend, actor Danny McBride, whose film "Foot Fist Way," was a comedy mafia favorite.

Green says Robertson calms anxiety rather than revs it up. "There are tremendous curveballs thrown at you during filming. She lets you know when you're hearing something you don't want to hear, that it's going to be OK. It's like a warm hand on the shoulder that soothes rather than amplifies the conflict."

"Shauna is obsessed with getting every detail correct," Apatow said via e-mail. Robertson has produced all of Apatow's directorial efforts and co-produced with Apatow several films by his young proteges, like "Pineapple."

Apatow says she fits right in with his crowd's aesthetics. "She is the rare woman who always wants to take the joke farther than any man wants to go. All nudity in my films is a result of Shauna pushing me and calling me a wimp. If it wasn't for her, I would be making `Bratz 2.' "

Robertson admits that most of her friends—but not all—have been guys.

There have certainly been those critics who've found the raucous, juvenile world of Apatow and his merry band of misfits, well, misogynistic, like Katherine Heigl, the star of "Knocked Up," who told Vanity Fair that her career-making film was "a little sexist. It paints the women as shrews, as humorless and uptight, and it paints the men as lovable, goofy, fun-loving guys."

Robertson won't engage in any public saber rattling, except to say diplomatically, "I don't share that opinion. I feel like we have very strong women in our movies." "Knocked Up" certainly drew big female crowds, according to Universal, its distributor. Many of Apatow's films feature an immature Don Quixote's quest for his inevitably saner, and brighter Dulcinea, though "Pineapple Express" is actually a full-on bromance. "But that's its point," said Robertson. "Hanging out with female characters wasn't a priority."

Robertson says her biggest preparation for producing was to have hippie parents. "It's good early training to have an incredibly irresponsible family. It forces a young person to take responsibility, to be organized," she explained.

She grew up on a farm outside of Toronto. Her father teaches hang gliding, and her mother is a yoga instructor. "My mother called me the benevolent dictator because I liked things done in an efficient way," Robertson said. Her mother loved movies, and every Tuesday took her out of school for movie matinees.

At 16, she quit high school to move to Los Angeles to work as an assistant to writer-director Mike Binder, whom she knew because she, and he, and her mother had attended the same camp in Canada, the one he memorialized in his film "Indian Summer." She went on to work for actor-turned-director Hart Bochner ("PCU"), Jay Roach ("Meet the Parents") and ultimately helped Adam McKay and Will Ferrell get "Anchorman" going. She's a little fuzzy on how she actually met Apatow, except she met a lot of people through the mega-comedy manager Jimmy Miller and she hung out a lot at comedy clubs, at first simply because she was too young to get into bars.

Robertson appears relatively ego-free about what she does except to say that it's essentially an extension of how she started out, as a director's assistant. The title has changed; the function has not. "I always do the same job. I don't always remember what the credit is."

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Apatow cohort: Shauna Robertson, 33, works with the producer and his stable.

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Pineapple Express
Fri & Sat 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Tue 1:25 4:30 7:25
James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Process server Dale Denton has a grudging business relationship with the laconic Saul Silver, deigning to visit only to purchase Saul's primo product–a rare new strain of pot called Pineapple Express. But when Dale becomes the only witness to a murder by a crooked cop and the city's most dangerous drug lord, he panics and dumps the Pineapple Express at the scene. When it's traced back to him, Dale and Saul run for their lives—and they quickly discover that they're not just suffering from weed-fueled paranoia.

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Fri & Sat 1:05 4:15 7:05 9:45
Sun thru Tue 1:05 4:15 7:05
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Doomed by a wronged sorceress, Zi Yuan, to spend eternity in suspended animation, China's ruthless Dragon Emperor and his 10,000 warriors have laid forgotten for eons, entombed in clay as a vast, silent Terracotta Army. But when dashing adventurer AlexO'Connell is tricked into awakening the ruler from eternal slumber, the reckless young archaeologist must seek the help of the only people who know more than he does about taking down the undead: his parents.

The Step Brothers
Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sun thru Tue 1:15 4:05 7:10
Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Comedy • Rated R

X Files: I Want to Believe
Fri & Sat @ 4:20 @ 9:50
Sun thru Tue @ 4:20 @
David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
Thriller, Sci-Fi, Supernatural • Rated PG

Dark Knight
Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Tue 1:00 4:00 7:00
Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia
Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55
Sun thru Tue 1:20 4:10 7:20
Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G

Hellboy II
Fri & Sat 1:10 @ 7:15 @
Sun thru Tue 1:10 @ 7:15
Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Hancock
Fri & Sat 1:30 4:45 7:30 9:30
Sun thru Tue 1:30 4:45 7:30
Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Behind the scenes of Hilton's mock ad

This undated image made from video and provided by Funny or Die Inc. shows Paris Hilton.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paris Hilton didn't need cue cards for her presidential campaign ad.

The 27-year-old heiress memorized her entire monologue, which included Hilton outlining her energy plan, in an online video spoof posted on Funny or Die, the comedy Web site's content director said.

Co-founder Adam McKay came up with the concept for a mock ad starring Hilton, which has received over 3 million views since it was posted Tuesday.

"Adam thought it would be really funny to get Paris to respond to the John McCain ad that featured her," Funny or Die content director Amy Rhodes told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Adam contacted Paris directly, and she agreed to do it. He wrote the sketch. And she really, really loved it."

In the online video, Hilton—clad in a leopard-print swimsuit and heels while lounging poolside—announces her candidacy for president and suggests an energy plan that combines elements of McCain's offshore oil drilling plan and Barack Obama's incentives for new energy technology. She also suggests a running mate: R&B singer Rihanna.

"I want America to know that I'm, like, totally ready to lead," she says in the video.

Rhodes said the video was directed by Jake Szymanski and produced by Chris Henchy of Gary Sanchez Productions. She said the video took a few hours to shoot at the house where Hilton was staying at in the Hamptons. Rhodes also said Hilton was not compensated for appearing in the video "because she decided she just wanted to do it for fun."

Jason Moore, Hilton's manager, would not comment to the AP about Hilton's appearance in the video.

Country stars duet with Elvis on Christmas CD

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Thanks to technology, Carrie Underwood, Martina McBride and LeAnn Rimes will be among the country stars performing with the king of rock 'n' roll on "Elvis Presley Christmas Duets."

The new album, due out Oct. 14, will also feature Gretchen Wilson, Wynonna Judd, Sara Evans, Amy Grant and Anne Murray.

Sony BMG is releasing the disc in partnership with Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. They say it's the late icon's first duets album and the first Christmas compilation of its kind.

Presley

"This is an excellent example of the innovative ways in which we keep Elvis' catalog fresh for new and existing fans," said John Ingrassia, president of the Sony BMG Commercial Music Group.

While Presley only recorded 20 Christmas songs, his holiday albums have sold more than 25 million copies in the U.S. alone.

His 1957 release, "Elvis' Christmas Album," is the top-selling holiday release of all-time with 9 million in sales, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

The Jordanaires, the vocal group that backed Presley on most of those early recordings, are rerecording their parts for the new album.

"It's done in very good taste," the group's Gordon Stoker said Tuesday. "We're doing the same background we did originally on the recordings in 1957."

Work is still under way in the fabled RCA Studio B where Presley recorded. Tracks include "Blue Christmas" with McBride, "Here Comes Santa Claus" with Rimes, "Merry Christmas Baby" with Wilson, "White Christmas" with Grant and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with Underwood.

"It's amazing what they can do," Stoker said. "Elvis sounds great. The recordings sound as if they were done yesterday."

Priscilla Presley said in a statement that she's pleased with the caliber of artists on the album. "I am sure Elvis would be proud to have worked with them."

Even so, some die-hard fans are wary.

"I don't really like fooling around with things like that. All the Elvis recordings are so good. It kind of bothers me," said Jean Donovan of Derry, N.H., who prepares a quarterly newsletter for a pair of Presley fan clubs.

But Donovan said she doesn't want to rush to judgment without hearing the songs.

Kathie Bryson of St. Louis, a member of the Elvis Memphis Style and TCB Elvis Style fan clubs, said if done properly, the project could enhance Presley's legacy.

"Some people get all upset if they mess with a classic, but if you take a classic like 'A Little Less Conversation,' I vaguely remembered that song until they redid it and now I adore it," said Bryson, 53.

And if any of the young upstarts should try to upstage the King?

"Good luck overshadowing Elvis Presley," Bryson said.

Barker removed from wrongful termination suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has dismissed allegations against Bob Barker in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by a "Price is Right" employee, saying the game-show's longtime host was not her boss.

Deborah Curling, a former production assistant, sued Barker, CBS and production company FremantleMedia North America in October, claiming she faced retaliation after testifying against Barker in another wrongful termination lawsuit.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Malcolm H. Mackey tentatively dismissed several claims against Barker on Wednesday, saying he could not be sued for wrongful termination because he was not her employer.

Curling's attorney, Nick Alden, can amend the complaint to try to prove that Barker inflicted emotional distress, but Mackey dismissed that allegation for now.

Mackey also dismissed several claims lodged by Curling against FremantleMedia, but will allow Alden another chance to argue they should be included.

Attorneys for CBS and FremantleMedia declined to comment after the hearing.

Curling's suit claimed she was in a "pleasant working environment" during most of the 24 years at "The Price is Right." She claimed she was demoted after testifying against Barker in a wrongful termination suit filed by one of the show's former production assistants.

She had been seeking unspecified damages.

Neither Curling nor Barker was in court Thursday.

Barker retired last year after hosting "The Price is Right" for 35 years.

AP

In this June 6, 2007 file photo, game show host Bob Barker, 83, gestures during the taping of his final episode of "The Price Is Right" in Los Angeles.

'Hills' star Conrad brings reality to Emmy fashion

In this Aug. 3, 2008 file photo, Lauren Conrad poses backstage at the 2008 Teen Choice Awards at Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lauren Conrad has designs on an Emmy—or at least designing a dress for next month's awards ceremony. The star of MTV's reality hit "The Hills" will be creating a "couture red carpet gown" for the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards, the TV academy said Wednesday.

The dress—or maybe dresses, if Conrad designs more than one—will be worn by the "trophy girls" who tote Emmy statuettes on-stage for presenters to hand to winners, the academy said. The trophy bearers also walk the pre-show red carpet.

Reality TV already has a big presence at the ceremony, with emcee duties given over to five reality series hosts, including Ryan Seacrest of "American Idol" and Tom Bergeron of "Dancing With the Stars."

Conrad, who pronounced herself "excited" by the academy's request, also managed to put in a plug for her clothing line.

"I will be doing a red carpet look that still reflects the simple classic design of the Lauren Conrad Collection but with a black tie twist," she said in a statement.

How real Conrad's design credentials are remains a question for some in the industry. When she made her debut in March at Mercedes-Benz L.A. Fashion Week, mainstays such as Sue Wong told The Associated Press, "I don't believe in reality TV stars turning into designers."

Conrad said then she understands such skepticism.

"I will probably never have the respect I want in the fashion industry, but I can work hard every day to try and prove myself," Conrad, who has trained at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, told the AP.

The Emmy ceremony airs Sept. 21 on ABC.

Wife's cell phone mystery man unsettles her husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 25 years has been talking on the phone with a married man who lives in a city 300 miles away. They chat for more than an hour a week. Our cell phone bills indicate that this has been going on for more than a year.

I have decided there is nothing to gain by confronting her with this information, but every few months I wonder. She has never talked to me about him. There is no way she has been able to see this man during this time, but I wonder why she hasn't mentioned that she has a "phone pal."

At least she got him to stop calling the house and hanging up when I answered. (She noticed I looked at the caller ID.) Any suggestions?

SUSPICIOUS IN COLUMBUS

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I sure do. With cell phone statement in hand, ask your wife who she has been talking to for the past year and why she never mentioned it to you. Something IS obviously going on, and you have a right to know the truth. If you aren't satisfied with her answers, call the phone number yourself. The longer you ignore the problem, the deeper in trouble your marriage will be.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For the past week I have been remodeling my home. Workers have asked to use my bathroom, which is a problem for me as I feel it is an invasion of a personal, private space. I feel they should have a porta-potty in their vans or find a public toilet nearby.

Am I wrong? I hate saying "no," but I feel my privacy is stolen.

PRIVACY, PLEASE, IN MONTANA

DEAR P.P.: Call your contractor and ask that a portable toilet be provided to the workers on your job. However, if that's not possible, rather than telling the people remodeling your house to find a public toilet, I'm advising you to relent. Happy workers do better work, regardless of what field they're in. And when work is being done in my home, I not only allow workers to use the "facilities," I also offer them a cold drink on a hot day. (Hint, hint.)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I just got back from one of the best vacations I have had in my life. It was relaxing, and I had a blast. Do you think it's weird that I went on that vacation alone with my father-in-law?

His son, "Blake," and I have been married for 14 years, and I have been around the family for more than 20. I met Blake when we were both in high school.

Before the trip, Dad and I got negative comments when the upcoming vacation was mentioned. Was it "inappropriate"? Or are the people saying so jealous they don't share a close relationship with their in-laws?

Blake and my mother-in-law were fine with the idea. Dad had fun telling people we met on the trip that I was his "secretary." We laughed about it—but when we told them I was his daughter-in-law, they looked perplexed.

I love my in-laws as if they were my own parents. What's your take on our vacation? I am 37.

"BLONDIE" IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

DEAR BLONDIE: Your letter is a first. I would have to say the situation is unusual. However, because the trip was taken with your husband's and your mother-in-law's blessing, and nothing untoward occurred—then "evil be he (or she) who thinks evil of it."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Publicist: Lisa Marie Presley is expecting twins

NEW YORK (AP)—Lisa Marie Presley is expecting twins, her spokeswoman, Cindy Guagenti, said Wednesday.

The babies are expected to arrive in the fall.

Presley—daughter of Elvis Presley and actress Priscilla Presley—announced her pregnancy on her MySpace page in March, saying she was forced to go public with the news after photos of her looking heavier were ridiculed in the media.

The 40-year-old singer has two children from her marriage to musician Danny Keough, which ended in 1994. She was briefly married to Michael Jackson and Nicolas Cage.

AP

In this Sept. 10, 2007 file photo, Lisa Marie Presley and her husband Michael Lockwood watch the Anna Sui 2008 spring/summer show at Fashion Week in New York.

Presley married music producer Michael Lockwood in January 2006.

"It's her time to celebrate with her husband," Priscilla Presley said Tuesday in an interview with "Entertainment Tonight." "My daughter is a very family girl. She loves children, and I know that she and Michael have been hoping for this for a long time."

She said twins run in the family "on Elvis' side and on my side too. I have twin brothers, and then, of course, Elvis had a twin brother (who died at birth)."

Nicole Kidman shows baby hometown Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Nicole Kidman appealed to the Sydney media on Thursday for "a little space" as she travels around Sydney with her new baby.

The Oscar-winning actress and her singer husband Keith Urban arrived in her hometown from the United States on Wednesday night with their 4-week-old daughter, Sunday Rose Kidman Urban.

"Keith and I are both appealing to the press ... just to give us a little space so we can walk around Sydney and show the baby our town," Kidman told Sydney radio 2DAY FM.

She said she understood the media interest in the child, "but at the same time, it's our little girl," Kidman said.

"Sometimes when people come right up in your face ... you think: 'Good God, would you do that to anybody else's child?'"

Kidman said the baby looked like Urban with "a bit of a reddish tint" in her hair.

New Zealand-born Urban told the radio station that being a new dad was an "awesome" feeling that only other fathers could understand.

AP

In this April 14, 2008 file photo, Keith Urban pats the stomach of his wife Nicole Kidman as they arrive at the CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Snoop Dogg raps in Bollywood comedy

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Snoop Dogg's done Hollywood. Now he's moving on to Bollywood.

"Yo, what up. This Big Snoop Dogg. Represent the Punjabi. Aye ya, Hit em with this," the rapper says while introducing the title song to "Singh is Kinng," the Bollywood film that opens Friday.

Snoop Dogg

Clad in a maroon slim-fitted Indian kurta and beige trousers and a diamond-studded turban, Snoop Dogg lounges on an oversized armchair draped with blue and pink silk alongside Akshay Kumar, the movie's lead star, in a video posted on the Internet by the producers, Cashmere Asia.

"I'm just a king sitting on my throne all alone, " Snoop Dogg raps, surrounded by energetic dancers in colorful headgear in a song peppered with rhythmic drum beats. "Singh is King. Singh is King. Snoop Dogg is also the King."

The video was shot over three days last month in Chicago.

Presidential debate commission chooses moderators

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Commission on Presidential Debates has named Jim Lehrer and Gwen Ifill of PBS, Tom Brokaw of NBC News and Bob Schieffer of CBS News as moderators of the three presidential debates and one vice presidential face-off.

Lehrer, anchor of "The NewsHour," will moderate the first presidential debate in Oxford, Miss., on Sept. 26. Ifill, a correspondent on the same program and moderator of "Washington Week," will handle the vice presidential debate Oct. 2 in St. Louis.

Brokaw, moderator of "Meet the Press," will handle the second presidential debate in Nashville, Tenn., followed by Schieffer, host of "Face the Nation," who will handle the third and final presidential debate in Hempstead, N.Y.

Each 90-minute debate will have a single moderator.

Jackie Chan to star in spy comedy

HONG KONG (AP)—Jackie Chan's next Hollywood project is an action comedy about a Chinese spy working undercover in the U.S. whose cover is blown, the movie's producer said Thursday.

"The Spy Next Door" will start shooting in mid-October, producer Robert Simonds told The Associated Press.

Simonds said no one else had been cast.

In an e-mail message, he described the film as a cross between "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" and "Big Daddy."

Chan plays a Chinese agent working undercover while on loan to the U.S. government. His cover is blown when he looks after the children of his neighbor, a beautiful single mother, and one of them accidentally downloads secret codes off his computer.

Solon So, the chief executive of Chan's company JC Group, confirmed the project on Tuesday but declined to give details. He said the movie may be delayed if the Screen Actors Guild fails to reach a new contract with Hollywood studios and goes on strike. Chan is a SAG member.

Chan usually juggles Hollywood and Chinese-language projects. His last film was the American kung fu movie "The Forbidden Kingdom," which marked his first on-screen collaboration with action star Jet Li.

He will next be seen in the Chinese-language "Shinjuku Incident," reportedly about Chinese immigrants living in Tokyo's Shinjuku shopping and entertainment district.

Simonds' producer credits include "The Pink Panther," "Big Daddy," "The Wedding Singer" and "The Waterboy."

AP

In this July 10, 2008, file photo, Jackie Chan greets photographers during a press conference in Tokyo to promote his latest film "The Forbidden Kingdom."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I CREAMED YOU WITH THIS WATER BALLOON RIGHT NOW?
TAKE THE WORST THING YOU CAN IMAGINE, AND IMAGINE SOMETHING A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE THAN THAT.
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YOU'D DO THAT?
NO, I'D DO SOMETHING EVEN WORSE.
HE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY.
8/8

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

OKAY, WHO HAD THE COFFEES?
JIM DAVIS 8-8
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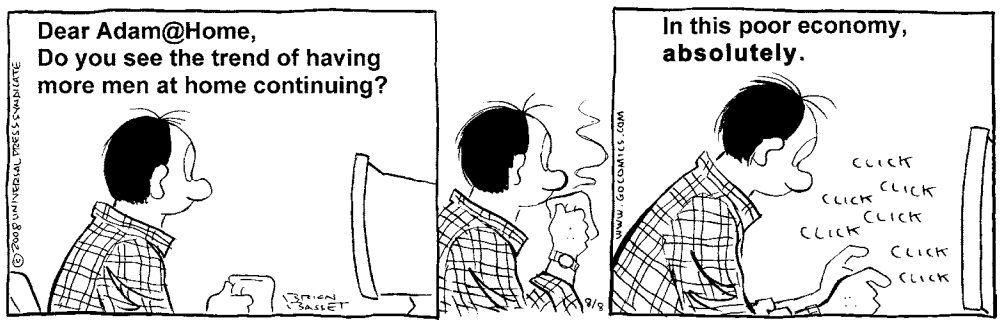
YOUR TIPS COULD MAKE BINKY THE CLOWN SAD

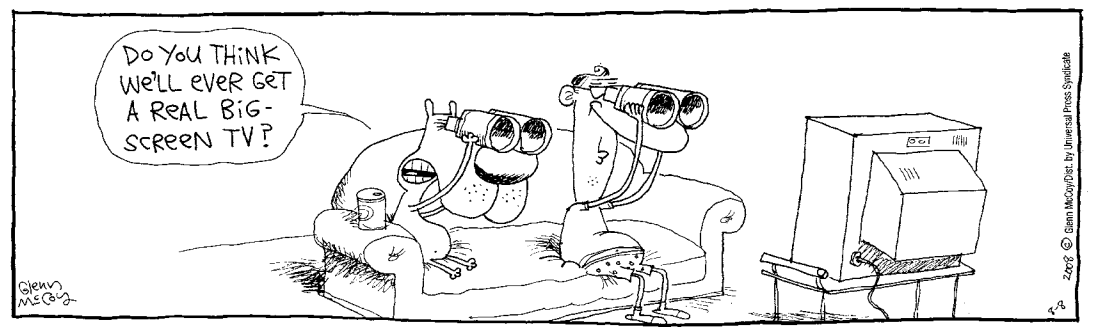
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Poke
4 Aries
7 Sick and tired
12 Carte lead-in
13 "— lazy river ..."
14 Draft in an apartment?
15 Hobbyist's abbr.
16 Robin's nickname
18 Swelled head
19 Nudge
20 Ignore rudely
22 Writer Buscaglia
23 Bar
27 Discoverer's cry
29 Painting on plaster
31 Corn
34 "Uh-oh!"
35 Soak up
37 Plead
38 Water barriers
39 End of a school's URL
41 Durante trademark
45 Grab
47 Hostel
48 1943 Rooney/Garland musical
52 Cover
53 Farewell
54 Born
55 Tokyo's old name
56 DSL device
57 Do sums
58 Morning moisture

DOWN
1 Green gemstones
2 Straighten
3 Ronstadt's "Blue —"
4 Hayseed
5 Moon mission name
6 Perhaps
7 Circulate
8 Still, in verse
9 Pop
10 Work with
11 Apiece
17 "Bow-wow!"
21 Incompetent sorts
23 Hold the scepter
24 Cleo's slitherer
25 Rocks
26 Section of L.A.?
28 That girl
30 Bread grain
31 Frenzied
32 Lawyers' org.
33 Doctrine
36 "Cheers" order
37 Flew very close to
40 Prince William's mum
42 Lubricated
43 Insinuating
44 Be philanthropic to
45 Pond-surface matter
46 Ogled
48 Shapely leg (Sl.)
49 Berlin's "What'll —?"
50 Disencumber
51 Shelter

Solution time: 25 mins.

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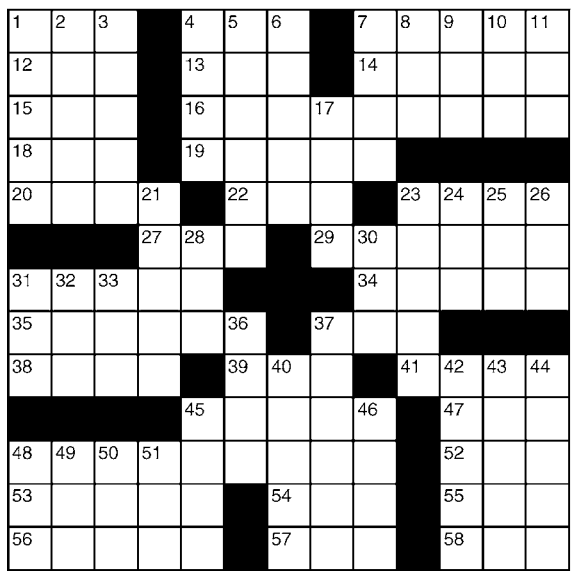
■	■	B	A	D	■	A	T	T	E	M	P	T
F	L	A	R	E	D	■	O	A	F	■	■	■
L	A	G	■	R	U	M	■	D	U	C	K	S
A	N	E	W	■	D	O	G	■	L	A	N	A
B	E	S	E	T	■	B	A	H	■	B	O	G
■	■	■	I	O	N	■	M	O	J	I	T	O
B	A	R	G	E	I	N	■	W	A	N	■	■
U	T	A	H	■	C	A	B	A	R	E	T	S
O	M	I	T	■	A	V	E	R	■	T	E	E
Y	E	N	S	■	D	E	E	D	■	S	A	W

Yesterday's answer 8-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Federer, 27; Michael Urie, 28; Keith Carradine, 58; Dustin Hoffman, 71

Happy Birthday: Your emotions may get the better of you, leading you in the wrong direction. You are strong and able to make a difference to the people whose lives you touch this year. Let your heart lead you to fight for truth and, at the end of the year, you will feel blessed. Everything you want can be yours. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 34, 37, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Legal or financial contracts or even an agreement you have with someone will lead to emotional turmoil. Before you get upset and do something you shouldn't, question your motives and the reason why others are involved in your current dilemma. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stick to business travel, networking and accomplishing your goals. Don't let someone's flirting or poor judgment cause you to make a bad choice. Reconsider a partnership that is not living up to its expectations. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your personal life disrupt what needs to be completed. Your effort and contribution will be commendable and will lead to support, greater security, advancement and an expanded social life. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do something nice for yourself. Check to see what everyone else is up to and if you can reconnect with an old friend. It's time to bridge the gap between your past and the present. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't renege on a promise you made. Some changes made to your residence or an actual move will put you in a good position regarding friendships and love relationships. A unique situation you didn't expect will develop. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Help the ones you love before you give your time or cash to an outsider. A flash from your past will get your mind wandering down memory lane. Don't hesitate to visit some of the old familiar places. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't dole out the dough or let anyone take advantage of you financially. Someone or something from your past may come back to haunt you if you left matters unfinished. Ulterior motives in friendship or with regard to a good cause may be divulged. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't jump to conclusions or give in to an ultimatum. Set and stick to boundaries you can live with. Change is likely to happen fast but, in the end, you will feel better about your new status. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Giving back to someone who has helped you in the past will build a strong support system. A trip may entice you but be sure your budget can handle your plans. Better to do something less expensive but still adventuresome and exciting. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen to what everyone is talking about and you'll come across an interesting prospect that can change what you do with the rest of your life. Don't hesitate to make a move. It will be advantageous financially and mentally. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone may try to sell you a bill of goods. Listen and observe and it will keep you out of trouble and allow you to make a wise decision. A change of scenery or distancing yourself from a situation will give you time to reassess. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An old partnership that experienced trouble in the past can now be reinstated if you are willing to admit that half the blame is yours. An interesting new take on something you want to do with your life will not be possible unless you make amends. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and precise in your actions. You are a hard worker and a practical person, striving for perfection, patience and acceptance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		5		3		8	
9				1				4
			6		9			
1		7				3		9
	2						6	
6		8				7		5
			9		2			
4				5				6
	7		3		4		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	7	3	6	2	1	4	5
1	2	6	4	5	7	9	3	8
5	4	3	1	9	8	6	7	2
2	7	9	6	4	3	8	5	1
6	1	8	2	7	5	4	9	3
3	5	4	9	8	1	7	2	6
7	6	5	8	3	9	2	1	4
8	9	1	5	2	4	3	6	7
4	3	2	7	1	6	5	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEING PATRIOTIC **Solution: 8 letters**

H	D	S	H	O	M	A	G	E	E	R	E	E	H	C
M	E	H	T	N	A	P	N	C	C	U	S	T	O	M
H	V	R	D	A	I	T	I	R	I	P	S	M	N	E
T	O	P	I	H	N	V	K	F	F	P	M	S	O	T
M	T	A	S	T	R	D	C	L	E	I	E	W	R	U
R	I	R	S	E	A	E	A	O	T	R	N	E	G	L
A	O	T	S	T	D	G	B	M	U	I	V	N	D	A
W	N	I	E	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	I	O	U	S
Y	P	C	R	E	E	N	L	J	E	W	T	L	R	C
D	A	I	D	P	T	V	I	(H)	O	E	A	R	Y	I
O	R	P	D	S	I	Y	E	B	(O)	Y	T	V	Y	T
B	T	A	A	E	M	A	F	N	O	(P)	A	S	E	I
M	A	T	F	R	R	C	S	L	T	N	(E)	A	E	L
E	K	E	A	T	R	O	O	P	S	S	I	N	G	O
D	E	F	E	N	D	U	A	L	P	P	A	T	E	P

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Address, Anthem, Applaud, Army, Backing, Beliefs, Bowing, Ceremonious, Cheer, Commitment, Country, Custom, Deep, Defend, Devotion, Draft, Embody, Esteem, Events, Fervor, Flag, Heart, Heritage, Homage, Honor, Hope, Join, Loyal, Navy, News, Partake, Participate, Politics, Respect, Salute, Service, Sing, Spirit, Stand, Troops, Warmth, Wave, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Herbal

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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Packers, Jets confirm deal to trade Brett Favre

AP

Brett Favre, center, talks to reporters after leaving left Green Bay, Wis., and arriving at Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport near Hattiesburg, Miss., Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The monthlong saga of Brett Favre's unretirement ended Wednesday night when he was traded by the Green Bay Packers to the New York Jets.

The Packers had been talking with the Jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers since deciding earlier this week that they could no longer co-exist with the player who won a Super Bowl and three MVP awards in 16 years with the team.

Terms of the trade weren't immediately available.

The Packers decided to move forward with Aaron Rodgers as their starting quarterback after Favre announced his retirement in March. Given their commitment to Rodgers, team officials weren't particularly receptive when Favre decided a little over a month ago that he might want to play after all—the latest development in several years' worth of flip-flopping about his football future.

"Brett has had a long and storied career in Green Bay, and the Packers owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for everything he accomplished on the field and for the impact he made in the state," Green Bay officials said in a statement.

"It is with some sadness that we make this announcement, but also with the desire for certainty that will allow us to move the team and organization forward in the most positive way possible."

Jets chairman and CEO Woody Johnson issued a statement early Thursday.

"I am looking forward to seeing Brett Favre in a New York Jets uniform," Johnson said. "He represents a significant addition to this franchise, and reflects our commitment to putting the best possible product on the field."

The agreement was first reported by Fox Sports on its Web site.

We just felt like this was an opportunity to go get somebody of Brett's stature and what he's accomplished," Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said during a conference call early Thursday morning. "We felt it was in the best interest of the team and when the opportunity presented itself, we felt it was the right move for us to make and we went ahead and did it."

A number of fans made it clear throughout training camp that they wanted Favre on the Jets with signs and "Get Brett!" chants. Favre's new No. 4 Jets jersey already was for sale on the team's Web site about an hour after the trade was announced.

Tannenbaum, who said he had a "good" conversation with Favre, wouldn't speculate whether the quarterback will play in New York beyond this season.

"We had discussions with him and his agent, Bus Cook," Tannenbaum said, "and we're going into this and we're going to take this one year at a time and we're excited to have Brett on the team this year."

The arrival of Favre signals the end of Chad Pennington's career with the Jets. Tannenbaum said there would be another transaction regarding Pennington, who spent his first eight seasons with the Jets.

"It's a bittersweet moment for us," Tannenbaum said. "I have all the respect in the world for Chad as a person, as a player. We've accomplished a lot of good things with Chad ... He gave his heart and soul to this organization for a long, long time. I really appreciate everything he's done."

Favre left Green Bay on Wednesday, boarding a private plane that left for Hattiesburg, Miss. at 1:25 p.m. EDT with his wife, Deanna, and Cook. Favre's family home is near Hattiesburg.

In Mississippi, Favre confirmed that he was considering the Jets and Buccaneers.

"We're working on it," Favre told Jackson TV station WJTV. "Hopefully, we can get something resolved. I've been saying that for quite a while now. I don't want to say we're running out of time, but I need to get into a camp somewhere."

The 38-year-old Favre holds most major NFL passing records and led the Packers to the NFC Championship last season, where they lost to the New York Giants. But Favre threw what would prove to be the decisive interception in overtime.

The Jets went into training camp with an open competition between Pennington and Kellen Clemens after neither established themselves during a 4-12 season. Pennington was 1-7 as the starter and was benched midway through the season. Clemens went 3-5, but Pennington actually had the better season statistically.

After some hope for reconciliation between the franchise and perhaps its most beloved player earlier this week, the final split between the Packers and Favre became obvious Tuesday evening.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy told reporters on Tuesday that after approximately six hours of what he called "brutally honest" conversations over two days, the coach had determined that Favre doesn't have the right mind-set to play for the Packers.

McCarthy said Favre couldn't seem to get past emotional wounds that were opened as tensions mounted in recent weeks—even with the chance to win his starting job back potentially on the table.

"The train has left the station, whatever analogy you want," McCarthy said Tuesday. "He needs to jump on the train and let's go. Or, if we can't get past things that have happened, I have to keep the train moving."

McCarthy spoke to Favre again Tuesday night, but there was no indication that their conversation did anything to change the fractured relationship between Favre and the franchise.

"It was just very general," McCarthy said of the conversation with Favre, who was excused from practice Wednesday. "Just how he was doing, where he was with the process, things like that."

McCarthy said he was happy the rest of his players were getting a chance to move forward.

"We talked about it last night," McCarthy said. "The players want resolution, they want what everybody wants. To come out here every day and talk about somebody that is not here and then shows up, it's gone on too long, and understandably so. They want to play football."

Bengals sign 1st-round draft pick, LB Keith Rivers

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (AP)—Linebacker Keith Rivers ended his contract holdout with the Cincinnati Bengals late Tuesday night, ending an impasse that made him to miss nine days of training camp.

Rivers was one of only two first-round draft picks still unsigned. The linebacker from Southern California showed up at the team's training facility on Tuesday night and signed the deal. Terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

The signing leaves Jacksonville defensive end Derrick Harvey, taken eighth overall, as the final first-round holdout.

Rivers was expected to join the Bengals for a practice on Wednesday morning. The Bengals had projected him as a starter for the regular season, but dropped him on the depth chart because he missed so much time.

"He's behind, but we'll work to get him up to speed, and we know he's the kind of player who will get himself caught up," coach Marvin Lewis said. "Right from the start, through the draft and minicamps, he has shown us things that are innate to successful NFL linebackers."

Rivers was the ninth overall pick in the draft. The Bengals are hoping that he helps fix their problems on defense, which have dragged them down for years.

"I'm ready to pick up where I left off," Rivers said. "I want to catch up quick on what I missed and move forward as fast as I can."

Gruden refuses address Favre-to-Bucs reports

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Brett Favre to Tampa Bay? Buccaneers coach Jon Gruden isn't hinting one way or the other.

Gruden refused to address speculation that the defending NFC South champions were on the verge of a deal Wednesday to acquire the Green Bay Packers quarterback as a replacement for Jeff Garcia.

The coach repeatedly dodged questions about the state of talks with the Packers about Favre, who retired in March but had second thoughts and was granted reinstatement to the NFL this week.

The Bucs have yet to confirm publicly that they are interested in Favre, however Gruden conceded that Favre's situation is "unprecedented" and acknowledged that he's always willing to explore ways to improve his team.

Garcia was brought in as a free agent last year and led Tampa Bay to a division title. He was selected to play in the Pro Bowl for the fourth time.

Former University of Toledo player charged with point-shaving

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A former University of Toledo basketball player was charged with fixing games, a little over a year after a former Toledo football player was charged with point-shaving, according to a federal bill of information filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Sammy Villegas, who played for four years at Toledo, is accused of shaving points in games during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons.

Villegas, a guard who finished his career in 2006, also paid money to another player who took part in the point-shaving scheme, prosecutors said.

The other player was not charged or named in the bill of information, which was filed June 30.

Gambling scandals have occasionally hit college basketball programs since the days when then-powerhouse City College was hit with accusations against three players in 1951. Scandals rocked Arizona State and Northwestern a decade ago.

Villegas was charged with conspiracy to influence sports contests by bribery and received money and other gifts in exchange for fixing games, prosecutors said.

The charges were first reported Wednesday by WTVG-TV in Toledo.

Prosecutors also didn't name who paid the players. Villegas traveled to Michigan several times to meet with another participant in the scheme, court documents said.

He intentionally missed two free throws in a game against Central State in 2006, prosecutors said.

However, the day of that game, listed in court documents as Feb. 4, 2006, Toledo beat Central Michigan 78-62. The box score from the game shows he hit his only shot of the game, a 3-pointer, and missed two free throws. He did not start but played 21 minutes, the stat sheet shows.

Toledo running back Harvey "Scooter" McDougle Jr. was charged in April 2007 with participating in a bribery scheme to influence sporting contests. A month later, those charges were dropped, but the investigation continued.

McDougle has said he did nothing wrong and never changed how he played to affect the score in any games.

University spokesman Lawrence Burns said the school is not conducting its own investigation.

"We obviously are concerned," he said. "We're confident that if it proves to be true, the culture of our programs are solid. These are isolated events based on individual decisions."

A message seeking comment was left Villegas' attorney, John Belanger of Sterling Heights, Mich.

Villegas was the Mid-American Conference freshman of the year in 2002-03, averaging 10.8 points per game. That increased to 13.7 points per game his sophomore season, when the Rockets finished 20-11 and lost in the first round of the NIT to Marquette.

Villegas' playing time and production decreased in his final two seasons. As a senior, he averaged 19 minutes and six points per game.

Pena hits 3-run homer in Rays 10-7 win over Indians

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Carlos Pena's three-run homer capped a six-run rally in the ninth inning that carried the Tampa Bay Rays past the Cleveland Indians 10-7 on Wednesday.

Eric Hinske had an RBI double in the ninth and Gabe Gross tied it 7-all with a two-run homer off Edward Mujica, who was trying for his first major league save.

Masa Kobayashi (4-5) replaced Mujica and gave up an infield single to Akinori Iwamura. The right-hander then walked Ben Zobrist before Pena homered to center for his fifth career game-ending homer, setting off a raucous celebration at Tropicana Field.

The American League East leaders, who have never won more than 70 games in 10 previous seasons, improved to 68-45 with their eighth victory in 11 games. A major league-best 45-17 at home, Tampa Bay now embarks on its final trip out West this season beginning Thursday at Seattle.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Carlos Pena, right, prepares to greet teammates after hitting a three-run, walkoff home run in the ninth inning off Cleveland Indians pitcher Masahide Kobayashi during a baseball game Wednesday Aug. 6, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Red Sox 8, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a three-run homer and Tim Wakefield's baffling knuckleball shut down Kansas City on four hits through six innings.

Jed Lowrie and J.D. Drew drove in two runs apiece for the Red Sox, who finished their season series 6-1 against the Royals.

Wakefield (7-8) threw knuckleballs almost exclusively, tossing practically each delivery toward the plate in the 63 mph range while winning for the first time in four starts.

Luke Hochevar (6-10) dropped to 0-3 in his last four starts, with an ERA of 7.48. He went 5 2-3 innings and allowed five runs on seven hits, with three walks and two strikeouts.

Yankees 5, Rangers 3

At Arlington, Texas, Jason Giambi homered, Sidney Ponson beat his former Texas teammates and Mariano Rivera returned from an aching back to save a win for New York.

Ponson (7-2), released by Texas in June, gave up three runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings. Rivera, who hadn't pitched since Friday because of back spasms, threw a one-hit ninth for his career-best 27th consecutive save this season.

Derek Jeter had two hits and two RBIs after attending a memorial service earlier in the day in Oklahoma City for former Yankees star and longtime broadcaster Bobby Murcer.

White Sox 5, Tigers 1

At Chicago, Jim Thome hit a three-run homer and John Danks worked efficiently into the seventh inning, helping the White Sox stay a game ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central.

Danks (9-4) allowed one run on four hits over 6 2-3 innings, giving the White Sox a lift after they used seven relievers in a 14-inning win over Detroit the previous night. Danks struck out six and walked one, leaving to a standing ovation in the seventh.

Chicago was without manager Ozzie Guillen, who served the last game of a two-game suspension for making contact with umpire Tim Timmons last Sunday at Kansas City.

Justin Verlander (8-12) gave up three runs in the first, then lasted into the eighth inning. He threw 130 pitches, giving up all five runs on six hits with eight strikeouts.

Twins 7, Mariners 3

At Seattle, rookie Denard Span drove in a career-high four runs and robbed Adrian Beltre of a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning, leading the Twins to a victory.

Nick Blackburn (9-6) allowed three runs in six innings to tie Detroit's Armando Galarraga for most wins by an AL rookie.

Beltre had two hits and two RBIs for Seattle. The Mariners were denied a season-high fourth consecutive win and first three-game sweep of an AL team in their lost season.

Angels 9, Orioles 4

At Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero homered and drove in four runs, Garret Anderson had three hits and two RBIs, and the Angels rolled past the Orioles.

Ervin Santana (13-5) allowed four runs and eight hits over seven innings with seven strikeouts and no walks. The first-time All-Star got as much run support in this outing as he did over his previous four starts combined, including a 5-2 loss at Camden Yards on July 27.

Baltimore's Luis Montanez homered on the second pitch he saw in the major leagues. The only other Orioles player to homer in his first big league at-bat was Les Narum on May 3, 1963.

Garrett Olson (8-6) lasted only 2 2-3 innings, allowing six runs and seven hits after throwing 117 pitches over 8 1-3 innings last Friday in a 10-5 win at Seattle.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 1

At Toronto, Rod Barajas hit a three-run homer, Shaun Marcum pitched seven strong innings and Toronto extended Oakland's season-long losing streak to nine games.

The Athletics are a major league-worst 2-16 since the All-Star break and have lost seven straight road games, a season high.

Marcum (6-5) allowed one run and three hits to win for the first time in four starts since missing 27 games with a sore right elbow. He walked two and struck out seven.

Gio Gonzalez (0-1) recovered nicely from a shaky first, retiring 16 of the next 17 batters. He was lifted after allowing four runs and four hits.

Pirates 2, Diamondbacks 0

At Phoenix, the recently acquired right-hand pitcher Jeff Karstens set down his first 23 batters before Chris Young's two-out double in the eighth inning and finished with a two-hitter Wednesday in a 2-0 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Karstens (2-0) has tossed 15 scoreless innings—against a pair of first-place teams—since coming to Pittsburgh in a six-player trade July 26 that sent outfielder Xavier Nady and reliever Damaso Marte to the New York Yankees. This masterpiece followed a 3-0 victory Friday over the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field.

The 25-year-old Karstens outpitched Randy Johnson (9-8), who tossed baseball's most recent perfect game in May 2004. Karstens also got his first two major league hits off the five-time Cy Young Award winner and scored on Doug Mientkiewicz's eighth-inning double.

Cubs 11, Astros 4

At Chicago, Mark DeRosa hit a grand slam and Alfonso Soriano had a three-run homer during an eight-run third inning that carried Chicago past Houston.

DeRosa's fourth career slam made it 5-4 and propelled the Cubs to their ninth win in 11 games. The surging Soriano capped the burst with his second three-run shot in two days.

Jason Marquis (7-7) hit an RBI double and won for the first time since June 21.

Brewers 6, Reds 3

At Cincinnati, struggling leadoff hitter Rickie Weeks matched his career high with four hits, and the slumping bottom of Milwaukee's batting order chipped in, too.

The Brewers took two of three in a series that started with slugger Prince Fielder shoving pitcher Manny Parra in the dugout twice during a 6-3 loss Monday night.

Fielder apologized a day later, and the Brewers were on their best behavior the rest of the way.

Jeff Suppan (7-7) handled the Reds' free-swinging lineup for the third time this season.

Giants 3, Braves 2

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum pitched eight innings for his first win in more than three weeks and Aaron Rowand homered and drove in three runs for the Giants.

Randy Winn added four hits, including the 1,500th of his career, and scored twice for the Giants.

Brian Wilson pitched a perfect ninth for his National League-leading 32nd save in 34 chances.

Lincecum (12-3) is 11-2 in 19 starts following a Giants loss.

Cardinals 9, Dodgers 6

At St. Louis, Ryan Ludwick homered in his fifth straight game to tie a team record and Albert Pujols hit a grand slam in St. Louis' victory over Los Angeles.

Pujols' sixth career slam and Ludwick's drive during a five-run fourth chased Derek Lowe (8-10), who gave up eight runs and 13 hits in 3 1-3 innings. Pujols finished 4-for-4 with a walk, and Ludwick was 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

Manny Ramirez hit his 513th homer to break a tie with Hall of Famers Ernie Banks and Eddie Mathews for 20th place on the career list. Ramirez added an RBI single and is batting .600 (12-for-20) with three homers and six RBIs in five games since joining the Dodgers.

Joel Pineiro (4-5) needed only 78 pitches to get through seven innings for his first victory in five starts. Chris Perez got five outs for his first career save.

The Dodgers finished the game under protest after manager Joe Torre burned pinch-hitter Mark Sweeney, replacing him with Jeff Kent, because he thought St. Louis had signaled for a pitching change in the eighth.

Phillies 5, Marlins 0

At Philadelphia, Kyle Kendrick pitched six effective innings, Ryan Howard homered and first-place Philadelphia beat Florida to move 2 1/2 games ahead of the Marlins in the NL East.

Kendrick (10-5) allowed four hits and pitched around five walks to win at home for the first time since beating Cincinnati on June 2. He matched his win total from his rookie year when he came from nowhere last season and bailed out a depleted staff to help the Phillies win the division.

Chad Durbin tossed two scoreless innings and Ryan Madson finished the five-hitter.

Howard, who also doubled, is tied with Adam Dunn for the major league lead with 32 homers.

Padres 4, Mets 2

At New York, Jody Gerut hit Pedro Martinez's first pitch for a home run and Mets third baseman David Wright committed a costly error, helping San Diego beat New York.

Baek Cha-seung (4-5) stymied the Mets again, allowing two runs in 6 1-3 innings. The right-hander is 1-0 with a 2.19 ERA in two starts against New York this season.

Brian Giles and Chase Headley also homered for the last-place Padres, who improved to 5-1 against the Mets this year. Trevor Hoffman worked a perfect ninth for career save No. 548, his 24th in 27 opportunities this season.

Martinez (3-3) allowed four hits and three runs, two earned, in 6 1-3 innings—his longest outing this season.

Celtics open vs. Cavs; play Lakers on Christmas

The Boston Celtics begin defense of their NBA title on opening night against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers, and will face the Los Angeles Lakers in a finals rematch on Christmas Day.

The Celtics will host the Cavaliers, who they beat in seven games in last season's Eastern Conference semifinals, on Oct. 28. The Lakers are also in action that night, hosting the Portland Trail Blazers in what should be Greg Oden's NBA debut. The No. 1 pick in the 2007 draft sat out last season after knee surgery.

Boston visits Los Angeles in one of five games on Dec. 25. The Celtics beat the Lakers in six games in the finals in the renewal of the league's greatest rivalry.

The NBA returns to Oklahoma City on Oct. 29, the first full slate of games, when the former Seattle franchise welcomes Milwaukee to the Ford Center. Oklahoma City served as a secondary home for the New Orleans Hornets for two seasons after Hurricane Katrina.

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni returns to Phoenix on Dec. 15, and New York welcomes former coach Larry Brown back to Madison Square Garden when Charlotte visits on Nov. 5.

Other highlights:

■ Baron Davis goes back to Golden State for the first time Jan. 25, and his Clippers get their first visit from Elton Brand when Philadelphia comes to Staples Center on New Year's Eve.

■ Top two picks Derrick Rose and Michael Beasley meet for the first time as pros when Chicago travels to Miami on Dec. 26. (AP)

US basketball team gets big Beijing welcome

BEIJING (AP)—Mike Krzyzewski could feel anticipation build as the plane carrying the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team neared Beijing.

"I was sitting next to Jerry (Colangelo) and said, 'You know, we've waited three years to get off this plane and do this," the coach said Wednesday, shortly after the team arrived for the Summer Games. "I think we're prepared, and while we're here we need to prepare more."

With their Olympics opener scheduled for Sunday against the host Chinese, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and the rest of the team arrived amid near pandemonium after fans waited hours for a glimpse of their basketball heroes. Later, the players held a team meeting before deciding to head to the Olympic village to take in the sights.

"It's a little overwhelming that it's really here—the reality that we're here," said Colangelo, the managing director of USA Basketball.

Krzyzewski, Duke's Hall of Fame coach who was appointed to lead the men's senior national team in 2005, is making his first visit to Beijing. The U.S. team trained in Macao before playing Turkey and Lithuania, then headed to Shanghai to play Russia before closing the exhibition schedule against Australia there Tuesday night.

"We're honored we're playing in China," Krzyzewski said after attending the ceremonial opening of the 24 Hour Fitness-sponsored strength and conditioning facility at the U.S. training center at Beijing Normal University. "We've been treated with the greatest amount of respect and friendliness. We could not have been treated better. I know we'll get the same treatment in Beijing. The Chinese people love basketball and we're excited we're playing the first game against China."

That excitement was on display when the U.S. team arrived at Beijing's airport earlier Wednesday. Dozens of fans, most wielding cell phones or digital cameras, mounted a spiked iron fence to get a closer look, many shouting "Kou-bi-er" - the local rendering of Bryant's name—in hopes of getting his attention.

The Los Angeles Lakers guard waved and smiled, looking pleased and vaguely amused by the display. Players left Beijing's airport by a side door and boarded a bus in a secure VIP area before driving into the city.

"I try to see American players every time they come to China, but this time is the most special because of the Olympics," said Manny Chen, a spikey-haired college student dressed in a USA jersey with Bryant's name it.

Krzyzewski said the team is planning a trip to see the Great Wall, and several players have said they want to go to other Olympic events to support U.S. athletes.

His family is scheduled to arrive Thursday, though the coach sounded focused on work. That was especially true after the Americans' performance in an 87-76 win against Australia, which included 3-for-18 shooting from 3-point range and 20-for-33 (61 percent) from the foul line.

The Americans are trying to win a major world title for the first time since the Sydney Olympics in 2000. The U.S. and China are joined in a tough Group B by Germany, European champion Greece, Angola and world champion Spain.

Krzyzewski said he wants his family in Beijing because this is "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and they should experience all those things."

"My job is fairly fundamental," he added. "I hope to get my team ready to perform at the highest level to win a gold medal. That's my only desire here, and I'll be OK with that."

Should NBA fear a mass exodus of talent to Europe?

By MIKE CRANSTON
AP SPORTS WRITER

It's the summer of 2010 and LeBron James is trying to decide whether to stay in Cleveland, leave for New York—or accept a deal for $50 million a year to play in Italy.

Far-fetched? Impossible? Perhaps, but the steady stream this summer of American players heading to Europe, where the euro dwarfs the dollar, the salary cap doesn't apply and the game is rapidly improving, has changed the dynamic of player movement in the NBA.

"The European market has been growing year by year and it's certainly been a hope of ours that it would become a viable alternative for players," agent Mark Bartelstein said Wednesday. "The luxury tax in the NBA has put a crimp on what teams can spend, so players are looking for alternatives."

Josh Childress started the trend last month, when the restricted free agent grew tired of Atlanta's bargaining and signed a three-year deal with Greek club Olympiakos worth about $20 million after taxes. Because the NBA's collective bargaining agreement only applies to the league's teams, the Hawks couldn't match the offer. Atlanta lost its sixth man from last season and got nothing in return.

Since then Earl Boykins, Carlos Arroyo, Nenad Krstic, Carlos Delfino and Jorge Garbajosa have left the NBA for European teams. The 5-foot-5 Boykins, who played for the NBA minimum last season in Charlotte, signed a one-year, $3.5 million deal with Virtus Bologna of the Italian league Tuesday.

"We're not terribly concerned," said Joel Litvin, the NBA's president of league and basketball operations. "In fact, we see this as a positive indication of how popular the sport of basketball is on a global basis."

But the league would sure be alarmed if Kobe Bryant wasn't joking when he told reporters after a pre-Olympic exhibition game: "Italy, Greece, Russia, $40 million a year? Yeah, I'm there, as simple as that."

ESPN.com reported this week that an unidentified person close to James said the Cleveland Cavaliers superstar would consider playing in Europe for $50 million a year when he's eligible to opt out of his contract after the 2009-10 season.

"If it happens, it happens. I'd be surprised if it did with players of that caliber," Litvin said. "But certainly we would deal with it if it happened and I continue to think that the NBA will be the gold standard for the top players in the world for a long time to come."

Under the collective bargaining agreement, James couldn't make more than $20 million a year in the NBA. Plus, league teams face a dollar-for-dollar tax once they reach $71.15 million in total payroll.

European leagues face no salary cap and many are awash in cash because of the sinking dollar, which earlier this year reached a historic low against the euro. A euro was worth $1.54 Wednesday.

Throw in some creative tax loopholes and maybe James wearing a CSKA Moscow uniform isn't an outrageous prospect.

"It just shows you what a global game basketball is that there are good leagues and leagues that are willing to pay for high caliber talent," Charlotte Bobcats general manager Rod Higgins said. "But the NBA is the best."

While the quality of play in European leagues continues to improve, the NBA remains superior. The influx of European players to the NBA, started many years ago, leaves the league with a stockpile of talent.

So NBA players will want to stay stateside for the competition, right?

"Ultimately, it's about money," Hawks GM Rick Sund said after losing Childress. "The more money they get the better they feel about the commitment."

Bartelstein, who represents players in the NBA and overseas, believes European leagues could eventually be an option for the likes of James, Bryant, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh once the issue of guaranteed contracts is cleared up. Bartelstein said he's had to go to court in the past to get teams to pay the full amount of deals to his clients.

"Without there being a players association and a collective bargaining agreement in Europe, there's nothing behind the contract to enforce them other than to go to court," Bartelstein said. "For Europe to truly get to the point where they can compete with the NBA for all kinds of players, they're going to have to implement a system where there's a lot more comfort that the contracts are truly guaranteed. Once that happens then I think you'll truly see great competition for players."

Higgins believes the European option will put extra pressure on NBA teams to lock up players before their four-year rookie contracts expire. The Bobcats had to wait before finally re-signing restricted free-agent Emeka Okafor to a six-year, $72 million last week, a year after he turned down a similar deal.

"We could have came to an agreement last year, so I think that's the window of opportunity for a lot of teams," Higgins said.

While Okafor said playing in Europe "never crossed my mind," Bryant has at least thought about what trading in Los Angeles for a $40 million payday overseas would feel like.

"You cut the check," Bryant said, "and I will bring my Nike checks."

Barangay Ginebra takes Game 1

MANILA, Philippines — Chris Alexander may have had some early jitters in his first PBA Finals. But those proved to be short-lived.

And the rest of Barangay Ginebra, especially Mark Caguioa, certainly did not have such attack of the nerves as the Kings tripped the Air21 Express, 105-96, Wednesday at the start of the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference championship series at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

Caguioa finished with 22 points, offsetting Alexander's woeful 2-of-8 free throw shooting and leading the predominant favorites of the approximately 17,000 crowd to the blazing start in the best-of-seven series.

It's not that Alexander, normally a 54 percent free throw shooter, let himself be affected by his stints from the stripe. He still wound up with 18 points, a game-high 25 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Five of his seven fourth quarter points came off his three offensive rebounds, each one proving crucial in helping the Kings stymie the Express' comeback bid from as much as a 44-64 third quarter deficit.

"That's what we've been saying about Air21 as a team," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico. "We're up by 18 or 16 points and then all of sudden they'll score five straight points. They're really a very streaky team."

Air21 whittled the deficit to as low as 90-96 on a hook by Steven Thomas, still 2:07 to go.

Then Alexander canned a charity off his offensive rebound and then tipped in a Jayjay Helterbrand miss to make it a nine-point game, only 1:20 to go.

The initial anxious moments over, Uichico finds additional comfort in the win.

"It's very important. It gives the burden on the other team to make the adjustments," he said. "At least 1-0 ka na. We can also still make adjustments and malaking bagay iyon, when you're up."

Air21 coach Bo Perasol admitted there are indeed some tweakings needed.

"I think those aspects of the game we knew they were going to beat us with became exactly those," said Perasol, referring to fastbreak and second chance points, which Ginebra translated into concrete figures of 22-12 and 24-8, respectively.

Perasol also admitted his Express, first-timer in a PBA Finals, failed to overcome their own nerves.

"Nagkaroon ng feeling na eto pala 'yung Finals, kaya parang just going through the motions," he said. "We had a good start but we failed to sustain it. I think we will be better the next game."

The fact Alexander outplayed Air21 counterpart Steven Thomas, who had 21 points and 16 rebounds, also gnawed at Perasol. "He has to do a better job," he stated.

Ranidel de Ocampo's 22 points, to go with seven rebounds, led the Express, who also drew 19 points and 14 rebounds from Arwind Santos but only 14 points from Gary David.

David and Santos chiefly alternated at Caguioa, but with little success.

Air21's defensive rotation was generally thrown into shambles when the likes of Junthy Valenzuela, Helterbrand and Eric Menk each had 12 points, leaving Perasol's charges at a loss on who to concentrate chiefly on.

Menk highlighted his best game in the conference by canning two charities in the first minute of the third period to earn his niche as the 59th member of the league's 5,000-point club and his jumper from the left corner gave Ginebra its biggest lead at 64-44, 6:56 in the period.

Despite its lapses, Air21 still proved to be like a bad dream that won't go away for Uichico.

With De Ocampo leading the way, the Express brought the deficit down to 82-89 before Thomas joined in and helped make it a six-point game.

Ginebra guard Paul Artadi was instrumental in Ginebra's charge from a 15-19 deficit and into a 25-19 lead, but pulled his left hamstring during a fastbreak play in the last five seconds of the first period.

Ginebra 105 – Caguioa 22, Alexander 18, Valenzuela 12, Helterbrand 12, Menk 12, Reavis 8, Artadi 7, Pacana 6, Mamaril 4, Salvacion 4.

Air21 96 – de Ocampo 22, Thomas 21, Santos 19, David 14, Arboleda 9, Se 6, Billones 4, Canaleta 1, Kramer 0, Cruz 0, Sotto 0.

Quarters: 25-19, 50-39, 79-62, 105-96. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

LIA

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ing guard spot for the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam.

Women's national coach Elias Rangamar said that Ruluked's decision to move to the mainland has left a big gaping hole in the team's offense and one solution he sees is moving his daughter to the two spot.

Rangamar said while Lia, as she is fondly called, is one of the junior women nationals' best ball-handler, the 5'3" guard is also one of the team's more accurate shooters.

Aside from Rangamar, others named to the team are 5'6" guard/forward Yvonne Bennett, 5'4" forward Jenequa Benavente, 5'8" center Dion Diaz, 5'6" forward Noelle Calvo, 5'2" guard Mercedes Mesa, 5'2" guard Nicole Lebria, 5'6" forward Blesee Sablan, 5'6" forward Tanisha Masga, and 5'7" center/forward Jacquelin Wonenberg.

Aside from the 10 players, Rangamar also chose five alternates for the team who can replace the regulars in case of injury or any other reason. They are Bennett's twin sister Yvette, Kaylani Lebria, Glorily Williams, Nikita Hofschneider, and Dayline Joseph.

Assisting Elias Rangamar, who is also Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president, is Jose Tumaquip. Connie Camacho will also be joining the men's and women's team to Guam as a referee.

The 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament is set from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 at the UOG Fieldhouse.

JUNIOR

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pretty close last year. I just kind of broke down in the match that really counted and I wound up finishing sixth. That was the best out of all the years I've been there though," she said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

The 18-year-old Dandan resident said although she's the most seasoned CNMI netter in the POJC, going to Fiji has always been a challenge for her.

"It's like my second home, but I think I just can't seem to get over my nerves every time I go there. But now I feel more prepared because last year I was there for two months training and I became more comfortable. I really feel like I'm more prepared this year, so I hope I do very well."

Arriola is tied with 16-year-old Marianas High School student Ji Hoon Heo with the most stints in the POJC.

Heo has been in Lautoka since June to prepare for the POJC and has participated in a couple of International Tennis Federation-sanctioned tourneys.

After Arriola and Heo, the player with the most POJC experience is Thea Minor of Grace Christian Academy, who already has competed there thrice.

Minor said she wants to improve, or at the least, duplicate her Top 4 showing in the 2007 POJC.

"I want to try harder and be into the Top 4 again so I could go to New Zealand. I'm really excited to go again. My preparation includes practice everyday after school," said Minor, who has also been invited to play in two tournaments in New Caledonia after the POJC.

Christian Miller, meanwhile, is figuring in his second stint in Fiji. Like Minor, the Whispering Palms School student is also looking forward to travel to New Zealand.

"I think I will be able to get into the Top 4 this year since I have a little more experience. But I know it will really be a challenge. I've exercised to build up my stamina and worked on my shots. I joined also soccer to increase my endurance," he said.

Rafael Jones and Dina Jones, who are unrelated, are the rookies of the bunch.

Rafael Jones, who goes to Saipan International School, said he is looking forward to his first POJC and appears ready to dispel his own myths about the competition.

"People tell me that players down there are pretty tall and pretty big. They don't look like 12-and-under and more like 15 or 16. That's why I'm nervous and at same time excited," he said.

He said his training the past couple of months consist of playing at the American Memorial Park tennis courts as often as possible. It also incorporated sessions with coach Peter Loyola at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

"He's really a good coach. He really taught me a lot and I owe a lot to him. My training is made up of playing twice a day, one hour in a the morning and another hour in the afternoon, five times a week."

Dina Jones, for her part, is not giving herself a lot of pressure despite the tournament being her first POJC.

"It's my first time. I haven't really played tennis for a long time so I'm not expecting much I would just try to do my best and try hard and see where it takes me. I try to play as much tennis the past couple of months to prepare for Fiji," she said.

Arriola, Minor, Miller, and the Jones kids will be accompanied in Fiji by longtime CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race.

SOME

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the cauldron will be lit by a fire-breathing dragon or phoenix. Others say the ceremony will have five torchbearers who set ablaze a cauldron shaped like the five interlocked Olympic rings.

Another guess involves basketball star Yao Ming, saying he will hold aloft in his massive hands a child who survived the May 12 earthquake that rattled Sichuan province, with the child tipping the torch into the cauldron.

While the ending of the ceremony is anyone's guess, the video from South Korean broadcaster SBS offered the first preview of its opening. Rehearsals of the ceremony at the national stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, have been guarded by three rings of checkpoints, with cast and crew members required to sign confidentiality agreements.

Media invited to such rehearsals are usually told not to reveal any specific details of the ceremony; the rehearsals generally do not show the climactic cauldron-lighting, to preserve its secrecy.

A Beijing Olympics official said Thursday the SBS report was "disappointing." Sun Weide, spokesman for Beijing's Olympic organizing committee, would not say whether SBS would be punished, only that officials were "checking into the situation."

"But the fragments cannot demonstrate the full picture of the spectacular opening ceremony," Sun said in a statement.

There were no great surprises from the video shot in the darkened stadium, although it showed the lavishness of the 3 1/2-hour ceremony on Aug. 8, expected to boast a cast of 10,000. Zhang spent three years designing the spectacle, seeking to boil 5,000 years of Chinese history into a 50-minute show.

The leaked rehearsal footage showed undulating white columns apparently simulating a waterfall and giant blue whales projected onto the roof. An enormous blue-and-green illuminated globe appears on the floor of the stadium.

Dancers twirled ribbons, drummers drummed, and martial arts experts performed kicks and punches. Colorfully dressed performers suspended by wires floated above the audience.

One segment featured a half-dozen actors on a raised platform surrounded by hundreds of performers, while cymbals clanged noisily in the tradition of Beijing opera

The most impressive part of the show is a countdown accompanied by drums, the SBS report said. Video showed rows of hundreds of people, flashing cards to form the number two, then one, while they chanted in Chinese and strobe lights flashed. An SBS crew filmed the rehearsal without even having to sneak in, a network official said. SBS, one of South Korea's major TV networks, shares Olympic broadcasting rights in Korea with two other networks.

"Nobody stopped us when we entered the main stadium on Monday. Chinese officials let us in after we showed our ID cards and we shot the rehearsal," said the official, speaking with The Associated Press by phone from SBS's Beijing bureau. He asked not to be identified by name because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

SBS spokesman Park Jaeman said it was regrettable if Olympics organizers felt offended by the broadcast.

"The purpose of the broadcast was aimed at heightening enthusiasm toward the Beijing Olympics by showing South Korean viewers the magnificence of the opening ceremony. There was no other intention," Park said.

The video of the rehearsal circulated on Chinese message boards up until Thursday morning, but no working versions could easily be found in China by afternoon. It had also been removed from overseas video-sharing sites for apparent copyright violations.

A few details about the opening ceremony had already trickled out since rehearsals began at the stadium earlier this month.

Organizers couldn't hide the fireworks exploding around the stadium. The show will include dozens of smiley face bursts and is expected to feature fireworks in the shape of a yellow dragon with red peony flowers in the background.

The main artistic director of the fireworks said they will be launched from more than 1,800 sites around the city, including major urban areas from Tiananmen Square to the stadium.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	68	45	.602	_
Boston	66	49	.574	3
New York	62	52	.544	6 1/2
Toronto	58	56	.509	10 1/2
Baltimore	54	59	.478	14

Central Division

Chicago	63	49	.563	_
Minnesota	63	51	.553	1
Detroit	55	58	.487	8 1/2
Kansas City	53	62	.461	11 1/2
Cleveland	49	64	.434	14 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	71	43	.623	_
Texas	60	55	.522	11 1/2
Oakland	53	60	.469	17 1/2
Seattle	44	70	.386	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	62	51	.549	_
Florida	60	54	.526	2 1/2
New York	59	54	.522	3
Atlanta	52	62	.456	10 1/2
Washington	42	71	.372	20

Central Division

Chicago	69	46	.600	_
Milwaukee	64	51	.557	5
St. Louis	64	52	.552	5 1/2
Houston	54	59	.478	14
Pittsburgh	52	62	.456	16 1/2
Cincinnati	52	63	.452	17

West Division

Arizona	59	55	.518	_
Los Angeles	56	57	.496	2 1/2
Colorado	52	63	.452	7 1/2
San Francisco	48	65	.425	10 1/2
San Diego	44	70	.386	15

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 3
Chicago Cubs 11, Houston 4
Pittsburgh 2, Arizona 0
San Francisco 3, Atlanta 2
Philadelphia 5, Florida 0
San Diego 4, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 9, L.A. Dodgers 6
Tampa Bay 10, Cleveland 7
L.A. Angels 9, Baltimore 4
Minnesota 7, Seattle 3
Toronto 5, Oakland 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Texas 3
Boston 8, Kansas City 2
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 1

By The Associated Press

AGUON

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juries or other reasons the 10 selected cannot make it, then they will fill in the slot," said Aguon.

The longtime CNMI national coach said the men's team currently practices five days a week with Monday, Wednesday, Friday reserve for track duties at the Oleai Sports Complex and Tuesday and Thursday for basketball drills a the NMC Gym.

The 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament is set from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 at the UOG Fieldhouse.

24th Saipan International Fishing tourney casts away this weekend

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will push through this weekend and the Marianas Visitors Authority has confirmed that more than 50 boats will take part in the sporting event.

MVA's Frank Tudela said that while the final number of boats that will take part in the competition will not be ready until Friday's pre-registration, he is confident that the event will draw in excess of 50 boats.

Tournament activities officially get underway today, Aug. 8, with the aforementioned pre-registration from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Reel action starts the following day when the region's best anglers cast off for the open seas in search of wahoo, mahi, tuna, and marlin bright and early at 6am on Aug. 9.

Twelve hours of trolling is all the anglers are allowed as the boats must be back to the marina with their respective catches no later than 6pm for consideration. The same times apply for Day 2 of the tournament on Aug. 10 but spectators will be at the docks to see the weigh-ins long before the 6pm deadline.

Launching points for both days are Sugar Dock, Smiling Cove Marina, and Garapan Fishing Base from 6am to 8am. After that, boats can only launch from the Smiling Cove Marina.

Organizer, Saipan Fishermen Association, will award prizes to the Top 3 in five categories—Bill Fish, Yellow Fin, Wahoo, Mahi Mahi, and Skipjack.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Marianas Visitors Authority expects more than 50 boats will take part in this weekend's 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

In addition, a special prize of $10,000 will be given to the first participant to land a marlin weighing over 624.34 lbs.

The fishing tournament's winners will be announced during the awards banquet set for Monday, Aug. 11, 6pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

In keeping with tradition, the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit will conduct Boat Safety Inspections prior to the tournament and all participants in need of a once over from the experts should contact Boating Safety at 664-9180 to make an appointment.

To obtain tournament applications, rules, and the official schedule of events, go to the Marianas Visitors Authority headquarters in San Jose or at Fishing Tackle in Susupe. For more information about the event, call Tudela or Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3200.

Other supporters of this year's Saipan International Fishing Tournament are Division of Fish and Wildlife, MVA, Saipan Mayor's Office, DFS Galleria Saipan, Island Apparel, SaipanCell Communications, Joeten Motors, MARPAC, and Pacific Trading Co.

Cabo Express reeled in the heaviest marlin last year when its crew caught a 288.50-lb. monster.

The crew of the *Saint Patrick*, meanwhile, topped the billfish category with the second-biggest marlin, which weighed 140.35 lbs.

An 18.20-lb. yellowfin tuna was netted by the *Dr. V*, while *Leemetau*'s crew caught a 23.30-lb. wahoo to claim the top honors in their respective divisions.

Seacraft Four I's 6.25-lb. mahi-mahi was lone entry in the division and easily won first place, while *LG Fish Dealer* topped the skipjack category with a 14.05-lb catch.

$700 up for grabs in Classified Masters Bowling

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As much as $700 is up for grabs in this Sunday's Inaugural Classified Masters Bowling Tournament to be held at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

According to tourney coordinator Ador Dimaano, first place nets $700, provided the tournament draws at least 36 participants.

The Inaugural Classified Masters Bowling Tournament starts with practice at 9:15am with the roll-off set at 9:30am.

The competition, according to Dimaano, will have three divisions—Class A for bowlers who roll 170 and over, Class B for 155-169, and Class C for 154 and below.

He added that registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and only bowlers with at least 49 games in the last two seasons of the San Jose venue and Capital Bowling Center leagues will be given classifications.

Bowlers with less than 36 games in Saipan's two bowling alleys can play but will have to suit up for the Class A category.

Bonus pins, Dimaano said, will be 90 for Class C (10 pins a game in the stepladder), 45 pins in Class B (five pins a game in the stepladder), while Class A participants will not be given bonus pins.

The tournament will start with a nine-game roll-off with the Top 5 for each of the three divisions advancing to the stepladder finals. The first game in the playoffs will have fifth place against fourth, followed by the second round where the winner of the first game goes up against the third placer.

The semifinals will then feature the No. 2 seed against the winner of the second round and the winner of that match-up will move on in the finals against the No. 1 seed for the championship.

Dimaano said the lane oil pattern for the one-day tournament is long oil (45 feet) and the entry fee is $50 per player and must be in before Aug. 10.

7th Annual Foundation and Family Day Walk on Aug. 16

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 30 walkers took part in last year's 6th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk. Photo above shows SAIWAI member Susan Gaspar stretching after the event at the Micro Beach Pavilion.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Walking Association, Inc. will host the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk on Aug. 16 along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

The walk will start from the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan and heads south toward the 10-kilometer turning point near Oleai Beach Bar and Grill in Oleai.

Those who wish to take on the shorter course, can take the five-kilometer variety of the event, which turning point is at the Japanese Tank in the intersection of Beach Road and Quartermaster Road.

Registration for the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk will begin promptly at 6am and registration is free. Those who want to buy SAIWAI's signature event T-shirts, they only need to fork out $8.

A total of 30 walkers took part in last year's 6th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk, which used the northern route that started from the Micro Beach Pavilion and had its turning point near the entrance to the Saipan Port.

SAIWAI board member Mario Espeleta said although intermittent rain resulted in a low turnout last year, those that did show up were treated to a new course.

The longer 10-kilometer course had its turning point near the road leading to Charlie Dock, while those opting for the shorter five-kilometer course turned around at the U.S. Army base.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk and SAIWAI's future events, contact Hiroko Tajima at 322-8781 or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

3-on-3 soccer tourney set this coming Sunday

The women's committee of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be hosting a 3-on-3 soccer tournament up at Navy Hill this Sunday.

Registration will be from 8am to 8:30am and action begins at 9am. Players must be at least 14 years of age to take part in the tournament.

Since the Navy Field can only accommodate 20 teams at the most, registration will be in a first come, first serve basis.

The top three to four teams will win prizes—futsal balls, waterpark passes from Pacific Islands Club, etc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A 3-on-3 soccer tournament is set for this Sunday at the Navy Hill Field. Photo above shows action in the exhibition match between Women's All-Stars and Multinational FC in the 2008 Saipan Cup.

Water will also be provided and people are more than welcome to bring grills and barbecue.

Entry fee is $10 and additional donations are always welcome. Money raised from the tournament will be used by the NMIFA women's committee to buy futsal goals for the upcoming futsal league.

Organizers said with over 130 people playing in the NMIFA Soccer Fall League, spaces are probably going to be limited, so those interested should come before 8am. ***(Mark Rabago)***

24th Saipan International Fishing tourney casts away this weekend

The 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will push through this weekend and the Marianas Visitors Authority has confirmed that more than 50 boats will take part in the sporting event. **43**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Packers, Jets confirm deal to trade Brett Favre

The monthlong saga of Brett Favre's unretirement ended Wednesday night when he was traded by the Green Bay Packers to the New York Jets. **39**

Aguon names team for FIBA Oceania Youth

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI men's team for the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam will have a smattering of rookies who will join several veterans of off-island competitions.

Men's national coach Rufino Aguon announced his 10-man lineup Wednesday and it includes five mainstays of the 2008 Micronesian Basketball Tournament that was also held in the U.S. territory last November.

In fact, if the games start tomorrow, four of the MBT veterans—center Jayvan Tarkong, forwards Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman and guard Allen Moses—will join playmaker Joemary Tumaquip in the starting five.

The rest of the team is made up of reserve center and MBT veteran Bill Kaipat, slotman Antonio Borja, forward James Camacho, and guards Jose Castro and Joseph White.

Babauta

Tarkong

Cruz

Moses

Rabauliman

The tallest in the roster is Borja at 6'5" while Cruz and Tarkong both stand 6'. Moses and Babauta are just a shade under at 5'11", while Rabauliman is 5'10".

Camacho, White, and Castro are 5'9", 5'6", and 5'5", respectively, while Tumaquip is the shortest at 5'4".

Aside from the 10, Aguon has also five other players serving as alternates and they are Rainier Deleon Guerrero, Edward Manalili, Lawrence Deleon Guerrero, Heartim Williams, amd John Villagomez.

He said eight of his 10-man roster are already training with him at the NMC Gym, while Babauta and Borja are currently in Guam and will meet up with the rest of the team before the tournament starts.

"They are going to school at University of Guam and are doing their own workouts. The alternates will continue training with the team and in case of in-

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Rangamar

Lia to make switch to off-guard in Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The absence of Chelsea Ruluked will mean that CNMI Junior Women's Nationals starting point guard Li'Amwar Rangamar will have to move to the shoot-

See LIA on Page 42

MARK RABAGO

CNMI netters off to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, from left, Thea Minor, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Christian Miller, and Rafael Jones. At the back is longtime CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race.

Junior netters off to Lautoka

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Five of the Commonwealth's top junior netters flew to Fiji Thursday night in time for Monday's start of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka.

Leading the group is seven-time POJC campaigner Mayuko Arriola, who hopes to translate a good showing at the Robin Mitchell Regional Training Centre into an invite to University of Oregon's tennis team.

"I hope I do well since I came

See JUNIOR on Page 42

Some secrets out about Olympics opening rites

BEIJING (AP)—Some secrets are out for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics set for today. One big one remains.

Video shot by South Korean television at a dress rehearsal this week was leaked, offering a first glimpse of the elaborate production.

Spoiler alert: Viewers can expect a dramatic countdown, giant whales, an illuminated globe and performers flying above the audience.

What remains a mystery is how the organizers —led by China's most famous filmmaker Zhang Yimou—plan to light the Olympic cauldron. The identity of the final torchbearer has been guarded like a state secret and a mock cauldron lighting was not a part of recent rehearsals.

Chinese media reports have speculated that

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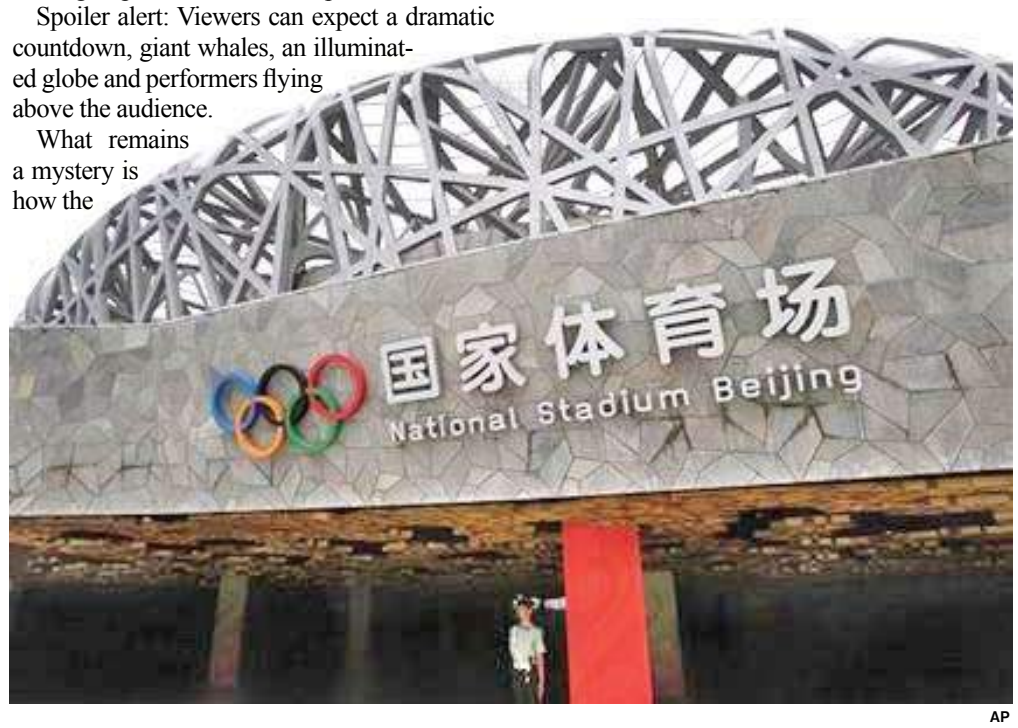
RELATED NEWS
US basketball team gets big Beijing welcome. **Page 41**



AP

Chinese paramilitary police officer stands guard near the main entrance of the National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest at the Olympic Green in Beijing Thursday, July 31, 2008.